

INCLUSION NOT EXCLUSION

Strengthening Community-Based Organizations and the
Trans Community in the Dominican Republic

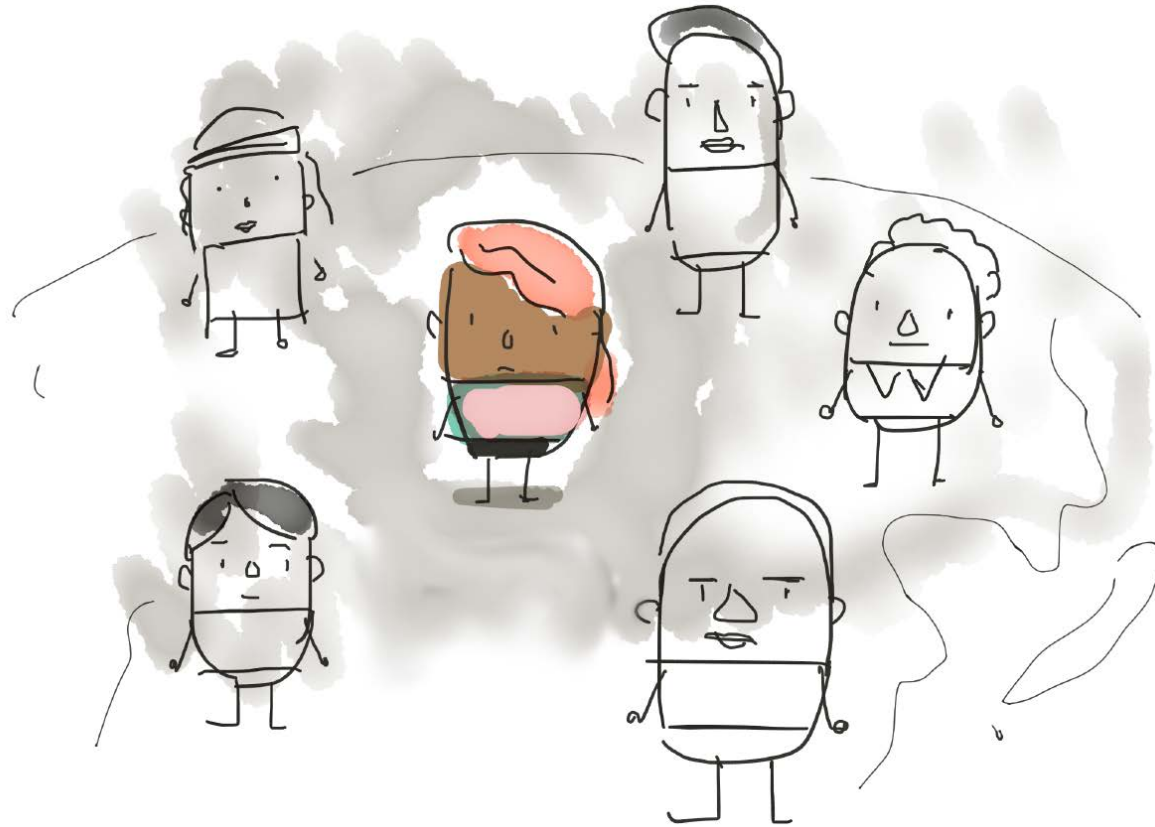
Based on a true story

Submitted by Advancing Partners & Communities

Video Storyboard

8/31/2015





Video

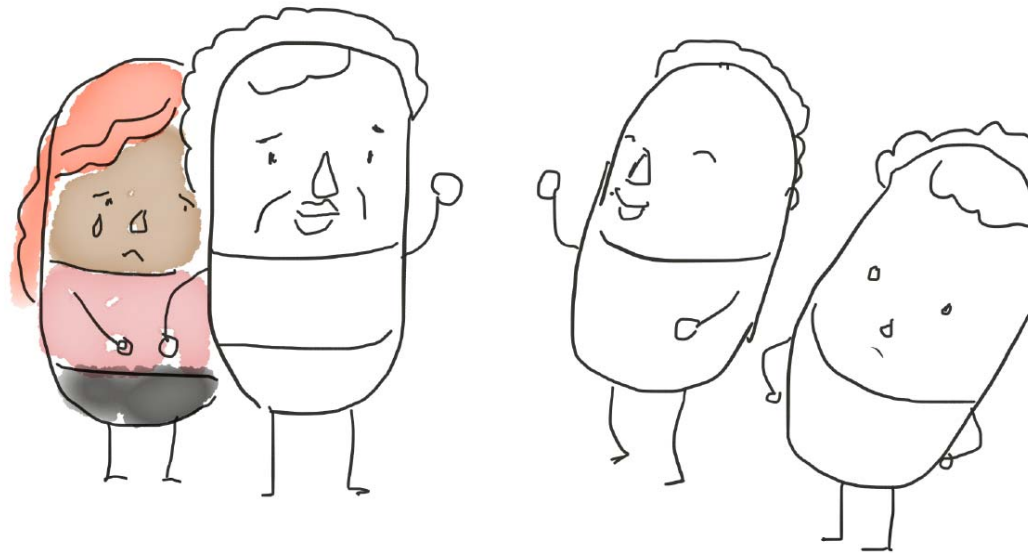
Wide shot of map of the Dominican Republic (DR) showing diversity.

Zoom-in to Valentina (as an adult woman), a Trans person who is the main character of the story.

Audio

Female Voice: My name is Valentina and this is my story.

The Dominican Republic is a country rich in diversity. However, there is lack of data regarding members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual and Intersex (LGBTI), but especially Trans persons.



Video

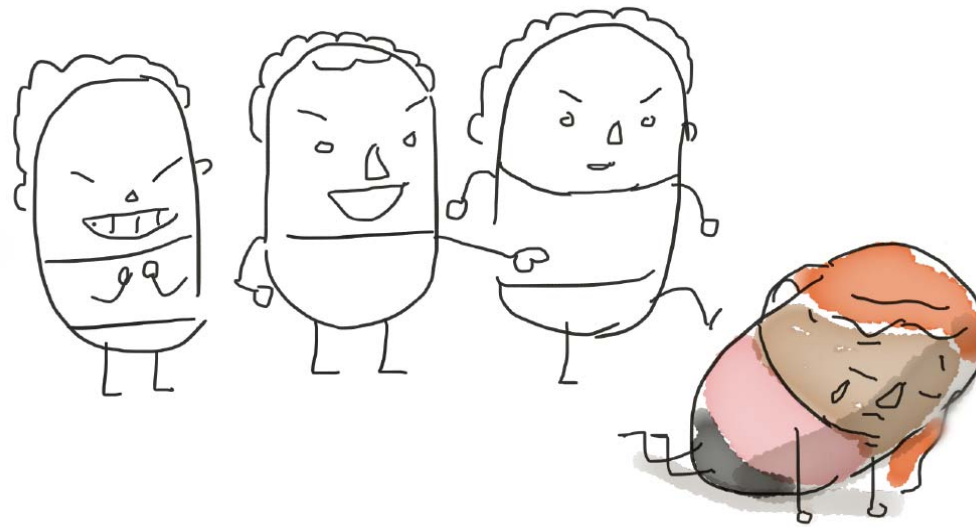
Wide shot of Valentina (as a pre-teen) with her family making fun of her while she is hiding behind one of her siblings because of what her mother is saying to her.

Close-up shot of Valentina crying. Valentina puts her head down and walks away from the room.

Audio

Female Voice: Trans persons in the Dominican Republic face stigma and discrimination in different settings. Unfortunately, for many of them, this began in their own family.

Older Female Voice: Valentina, I will not be taking you to our family reunion. I do not want people to see you dressed like this. I want my son back!



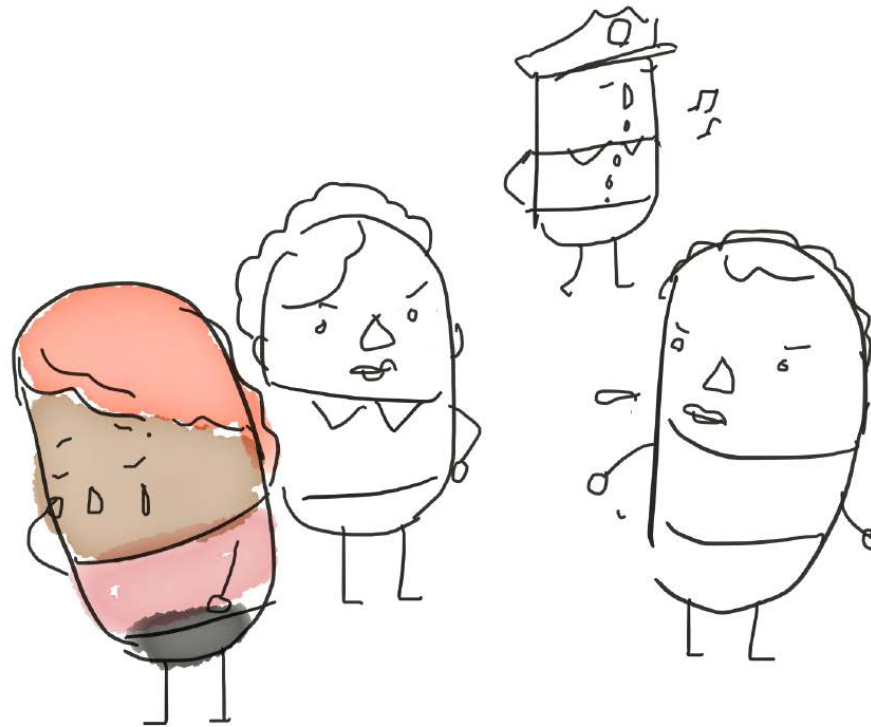
Video

The scene starts with a wide shot of the outside of a school. The camera zooms-in to the playground where Valentina (as a pre-teen) is shown on the ground crying and looking ashamed and scared. The scene also shows her schoolmates around her, bullying her.

Audio

Female Voice: It was difficult for me to get myself to go to school every day because my peers were mean and did not acknowledge me. I also felt rejected when I had to go to the doctor. Nurses and doctors looked confused and made me feel confused! Trying to find a job was not easy either.

Background noise of kids laughing



Video

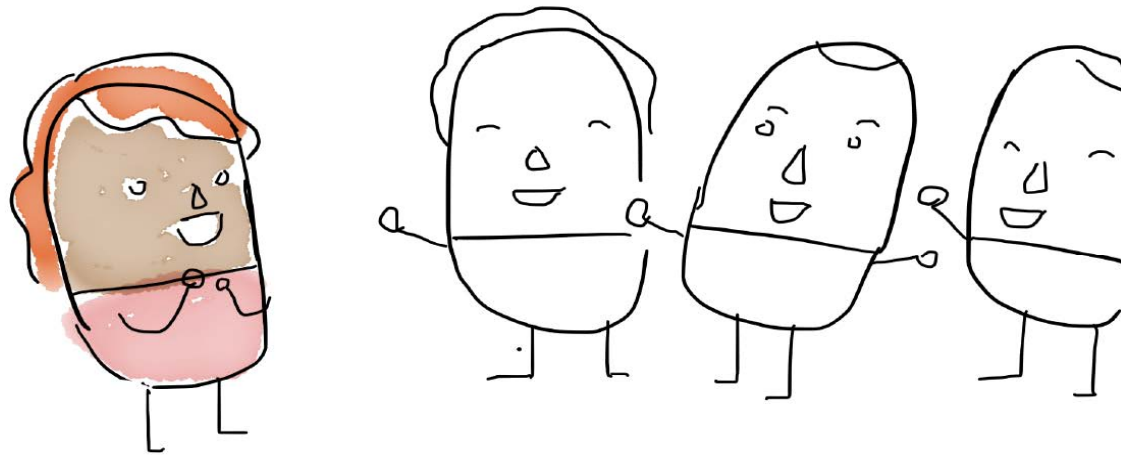
Scene opens by showing Valentina as a young adult leaving a job interview, looking down at the street with an expression of disappointment and shame because she did not get the job.

As Valentina walks down the street, people are giving her looks, someone kicks her and spits on her. The camera then scans to the policeman standing in the background showing that he is not doing anything to stop the harassment.

Audio

Female Voice: Sometimes I don't want to go outside. When I walk down the street, people yell at me and give me dirty looks. If I were to get into trouble and feel threatened, police would hesitate to help me. I feel isolated and excluded.

Background noise of people snickering and policeman whistling.



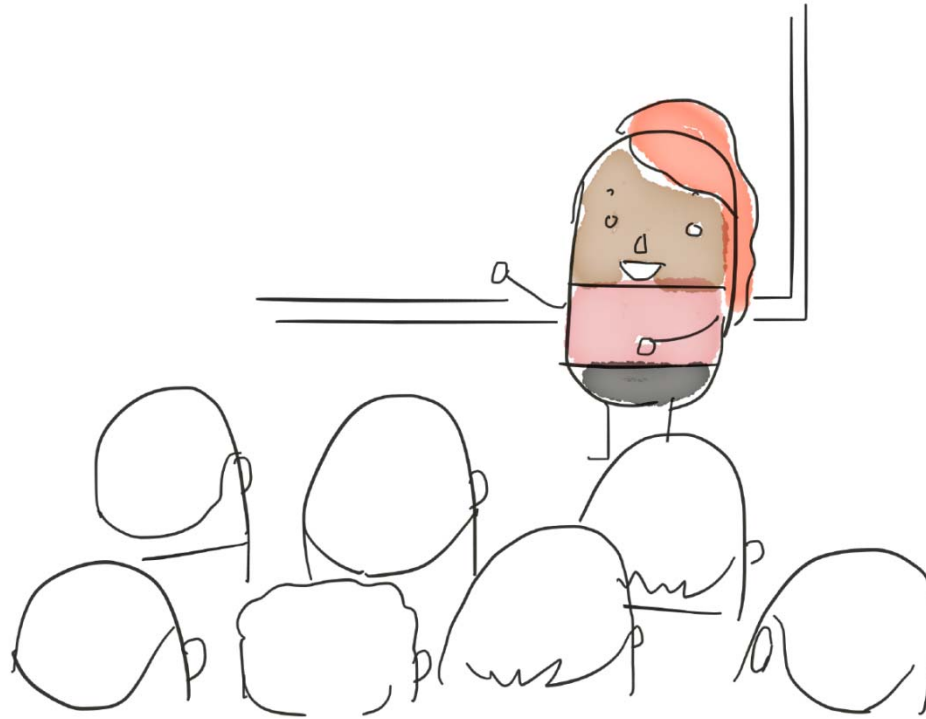
Video

Close-up of Valentina smiling. The shot scans to show other people in an office setting talking to Valentina congratulating her on the new job and shaking her hand. The scene closes with a wide shot of the outside of an organization that has an LGBTI flag in the front.

Audio

Female Voice: There are some community-based organizations that advocate for LGBTI rights in my country. I was fortunate to get a job with one of them. They welcomed me as part of their family.

Background noise of people saying congratulations.



Video

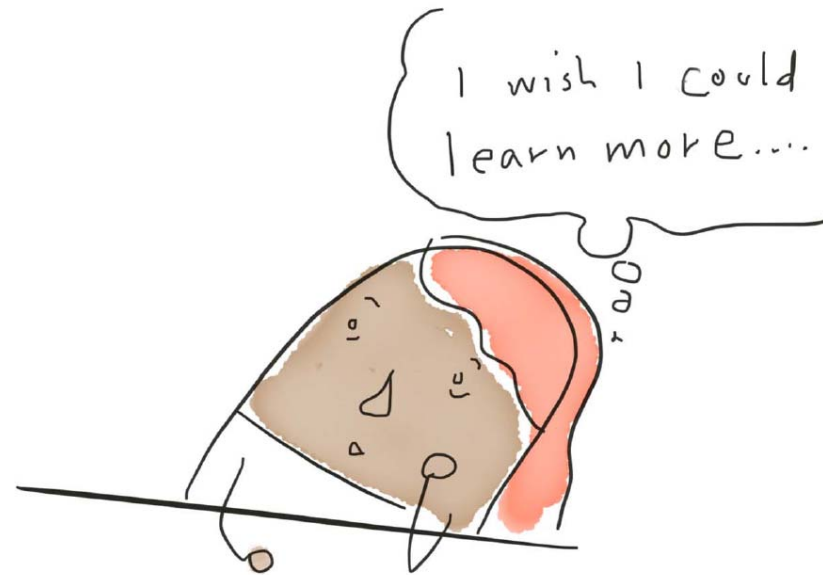
Wide shot of Valentina in a classroom teaching other members of the LGBTI community about HIV prevention.

Zoom in to Valentina writing a bulleted list of methods of HIV prevention on the board and highlighting HIV testing at the end of the list.

The audience is tilting their head to one side and someone is shown raising their hand.

Audio

Female Voice: By working with this type of community-based organization (CBO), I have been able to learn about human rights, advocacy, and HIV prevention. The part that I enjoy the most about my job is being able to empower and help other members of the LGBTI community.



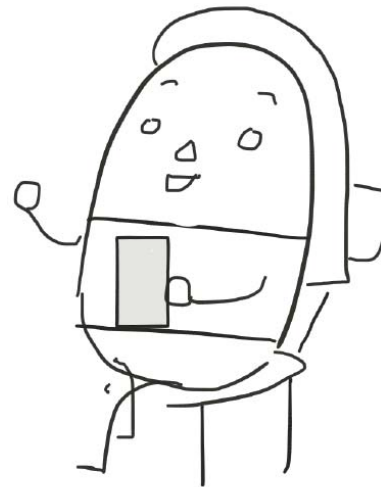
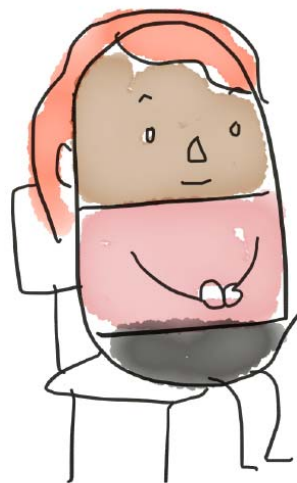
Video

Open the scene showing an older adult version of Valentina sitting at a desk in her office. The camera zooms out and a thought bubble appears above her head with the words "I wish I could learn more"

Audio

Female Voice: Although I love my job, I sometimes feel stuck. I wish I could acquire other skills to enable professional growth that I could then pass on to my community. Although I am aware of the obstacles that Trans persons encounter daily, there is not enough data available to help us improve our efforts.

Hm... maybe I should attend that meeting with Advancing Partners & Communities (APC). This could be my chance to learn more and meet people who are working to help the Trans community.



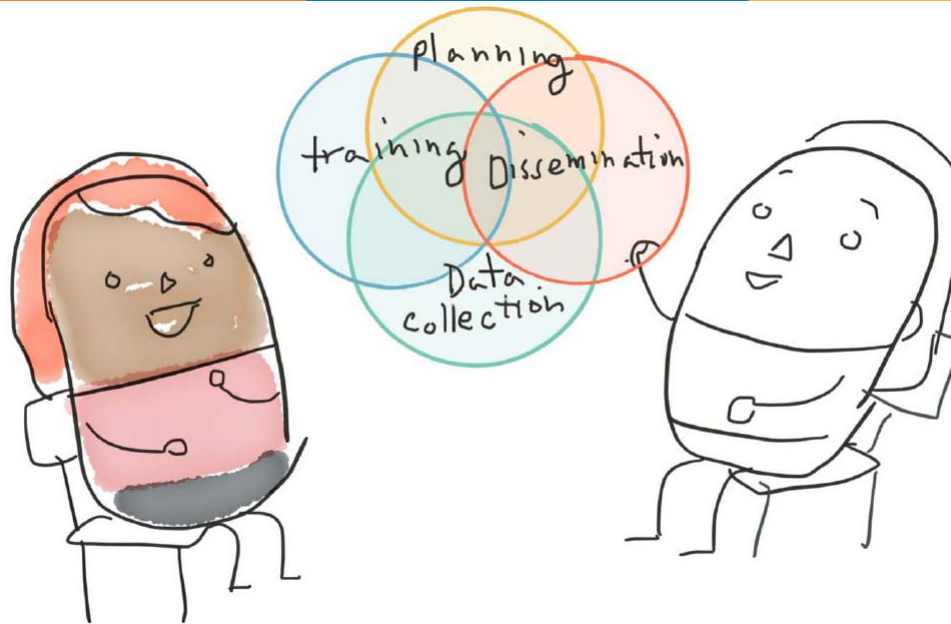
Video

The scene opens in a large meeting room with multiple discussion tables. The five CBO logos will appear along with the USAID and the APC logos. The camera zooms in to Valentina asking someone from APC about what can be done to help the Trans community.

Audio

Female Voice: It was so motivating and energizing to learn that the USAID/DR Mission is supporting projects like APC that are creating spaces for Trans organizations to collaborate, learn, and strengthen their capabilities. I can see how challenging it would be to organize so many people from different organizations and incorporate all of their ideas.

It was inspiring to be able to meet government officials, topic experts, and other Trans persons.



Video

Scene starts with a wide shot of a local university building where the camera moves inside a classroom showing Valentina being trained by a professor on how to conduct a survey.

Slowly four circles appear as the professor is talking and the words “training, planning, data collection, and dissemination” start appearing inside the circles.

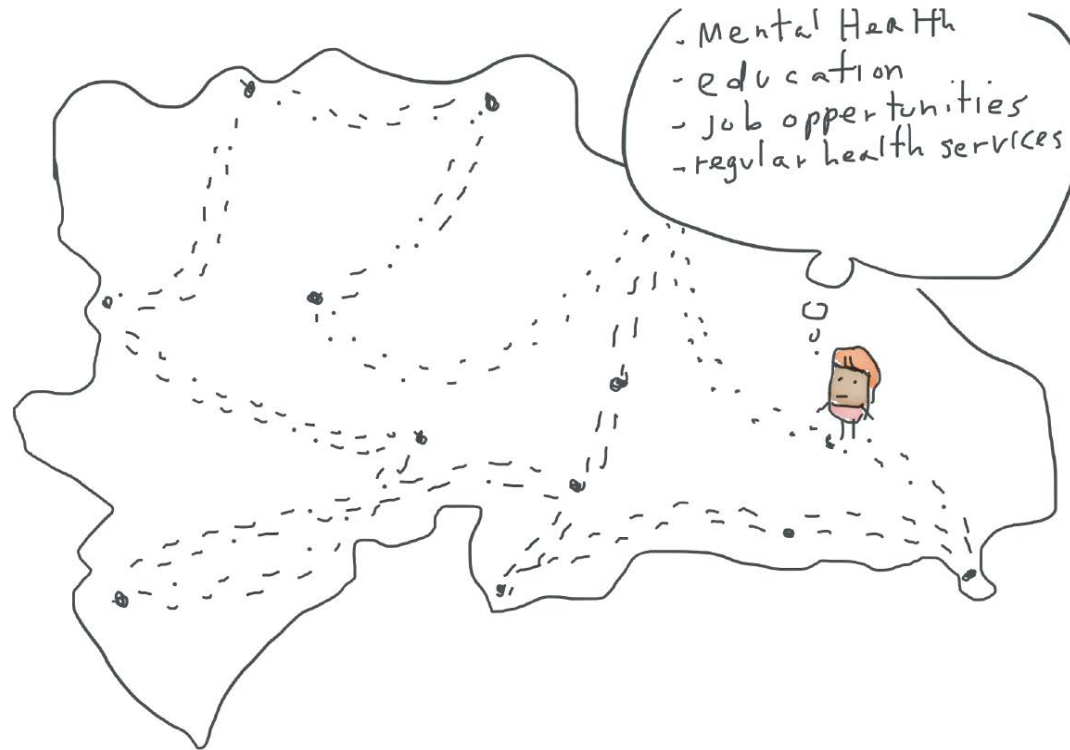
The scene closes with a close-up of Valentina’s face as she is intently listening to the professor.

Audio

Female Voice: During the meeting I was selected to be part of a new Trans persons study that brings together different members of the Trans community, local organizations, the Ministry of Public Health, and USAID. APC identified the need for a study like this one to better understand the health needs of Trans persons by giving them a voice.

I was excited to attend a training on how to conduct field interviews at a university with other Trans persons.

I strongly believe that acquiring knowledge about the Trans community will help us to address the needs of Trans persons and help make our society more inclusive.



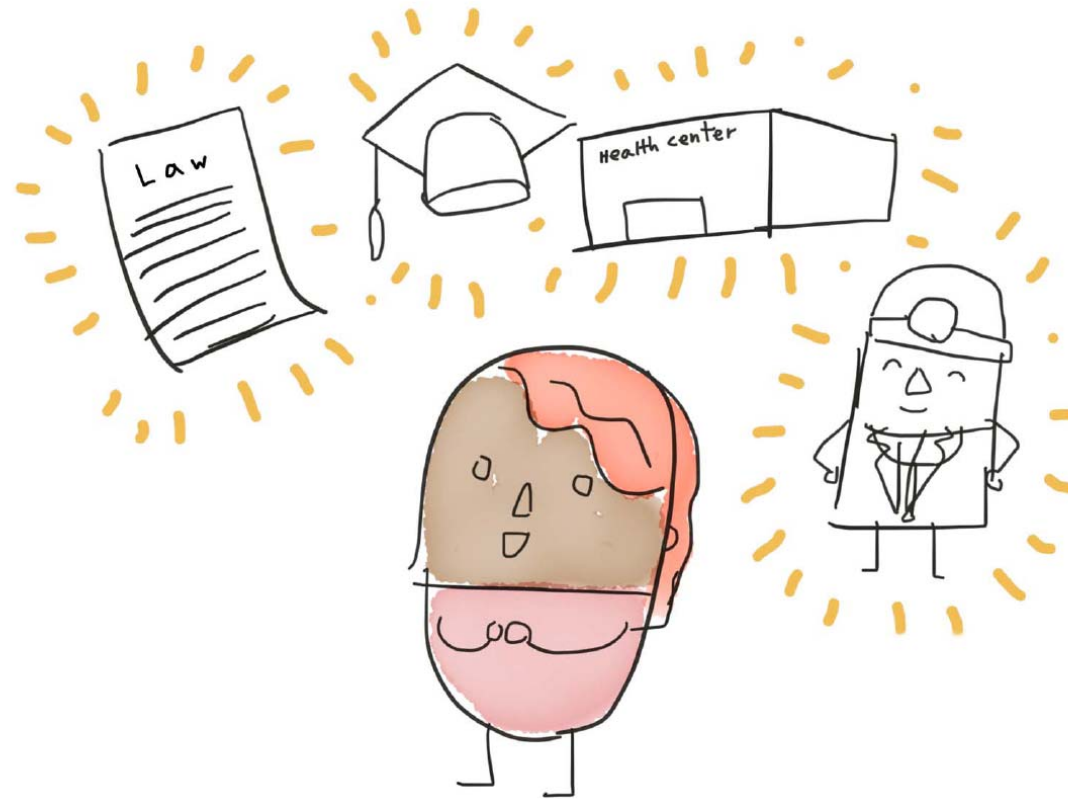
Video

Wide shot of a blank map of the DR. Valentina is shown walking to different places in the map of the DR and leaving footprints behind. The camera follows Valentina's path. Valentina stops, the camera zooms in to show a thought bubble popping up above her head. As Valentina lists each need, these words appear in the bubble: "mental health, education, job opportunities, regular health services."

Audio

Female Voice: As I interview Trans men and women, I feel more connected to who I am and I feel a sense of community. Since I am a Trans woman I feel that I have been able to get my interviewees to open up more about the challenges they are facing.

I have learned about the different needs of the Trans community such as adequate mental health services, education, better job opportunities, and regular health services. I wish we had more time to interview more Trans persons.



Video

Zoom in of Valentina looking up excited. Camera zooms out and the following images appear, one at time: a document titled law, a graduation cap, a health center building, and a friendly doctor.

End scene with the camera zooming in showing Valentina jumping for joy.

Audio

Female Voice: I hope that the information we are collecting from the Trans persons study will be adapted to include the Trans community in future decision-making for legislation, education, and healthcare services and training.

One day there will be equality, fairness, and inclusion in our society and I will no longer be seen and treated as an outsider.



Video

Wide shot of a graduation ceremony. Camera zooms in Valentina receiving a diploma then scanning the audience to show all previous characters such as the policeman, her family, people from the street, a doctor, APC staff, and Trans students cheering for Valentina.

Audio

Female Voice: All I ever wanted was to be like everyone else. As the LGBTI community advocates for social justice and there are opportunities to collaborate with others and adapt and learn, Trans persons can become fully part of society in the Dominican Republic. That is something to celebrate!