

Global Threats and Regional Responses:

Security and Epidemiological Surveillance in Andean Countries

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Plan of the presentation

- ✓ *Rationale:*
 - Growing global(ized) concern on out-breaks, both “natural” and/or man-made;
- ✓ *Regional background:*
 - Long-term commercial agreement (Andean Pact);
 - Epidemiological surveillance network, mostly in national borders;
- ✓ *Moving ahead:*
 - Sharing experiences and capacities;
 - Epi surveillance as part of national security activities, no militarized, though.

Global Concern

- ✓ Emerging infectious diseases (mid 1990s):
 - More “*scientific*” rationale;
- ✓ Biosecurity & Bioterrorism (2006):
 - Openly political (e.g. Grinwich, Fukuyama);
- ✓ Transition from biosafety to biosecurity?
- ✓ From international to global health;

Major Regional Agreements in South America

Andean Community

Meeting of Ministries of Health of Andean Countries

- Bolivia
- Colombia
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Venezuela



MERCOSUR

Meeting of Ministries of Health of MERCOSUR and Associated States

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

Epidemiological Surveillance

- ✓ *At national borders:*
 - Limited coordination and epidemiological control according to plans;
 - Little knowledge of agreements, limited knowledge and experience sharing among countries;
- ✓ *Epidemiological reports:*
 - Need to standardize report formats, and data bases;
- ✓ *International Health Regulation:*
 - Limited knowledge of IHR in epi surveillance at borders and national entries (ports, airports);
 - Preparedness to be assessed in case of global/regional outbreaks.

Equator and Colombia – I

- ✓ Joint activities in the three borders' corridors in 2005:
 - GIS maps of towns in both borders;
 - Socio-demographic and human resources assessment;
 - Standardization of events of epi concern;
 - Technical committees in the three borders' corridors;
 - Events of binational mandatory notification;
 - Selection of notification points in each corridor;

Equator and Colombia – II

- Consolidation of information from all corridors;
- Prompt notification of events per corridor;
- Weekly exchange information;
- Notification, analysis and investigation of events through proper systems;
- Information on morbidity and mortality;
- Consolidation of information of 10 top causes of morbidity and mortality;
- Pending a common methodology for health assessment; outbreaks control, training, epidemics and attention to peoples.

Applying the decision algorithm for international notification – Peru

Year 2004:

- *Bartonella* at the Peru – Brazil border;

Year 2005:

- Cesium case in Lima;

Year 2006:

- Training to Health Directorate staff at the borders of international notification

Epidemiological Surveillance

- ✓ *Bi/multinational epidemiological surveillance in the Andes:*
 - Not to be confined to borders, but to the whole epi surveillance across the countries: protocol to assess preparedness of epi surveillance systems, incl. labs;
 - Seen as a health sector activity, not necessarily involving others;
 - Vaccination campaigns launched by PAHO/WHO.
 - Military not always involved in epi surveillance;
 - National security most influenced by the military, civilians not involved in security issues;
 - Growing inter-country and international commerce.

Enhancing Preparedness

✓ *Opportunities?:*

- Foreign policy: Bi/multinational cooperation for peace building: not only sharing experiences at meetings, but by exchanging professional teams;
- Health as a development variable: commerce–disease–security links, PH within a human security framework;
- Biodefense or human security? Epidemiological surveillance networks should be part of national security systems, considering “natural” or man-made out-breaks or epidemics a threat to their populations, though not in military terms but in civil-defense grounds;

Some issues to be addressed

- ✓ Inform policy and decision makers:
 - Political issues: Institutional development, int'l cooperation, accountability;
 - Technical issues: Training, technology, surveillance of dual research;
 - Social issues: Media messages, public education;
 - Cultural issues: religious fundamentalism;
- ✓ Evidence-based advocacy: gains of investing in dual research?; loses (actual/potential) by not investing?;
- ✓ Who are the champions of change?

The champions of change

- ✓ *Who are the champions of change?:*
 - Should they be public?
 - Should they be private?
 - Should they be public-private?

	Biosafety	Biosecurity/ Biodefense	Human security/PH
Microbiologists	+++	++	+
Military	+	+++	+
Policy makers	+	++	+++