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

新兴的传染性疾病（20世纪90年代中后期）：
- 更多 "科学" 理由；

生物安全与生物恐怖主义（2006年）：
- 明显政治化（例如：格林威治，福山）；

过渡从生物安全到生物安全？

从国际到全球健康；
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:

- Cesius 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 no 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?

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