

Scaling up Newborn Health Policies through a Regional Multi-Country Partnership

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Jhpiego in partnership with Save the Children, Constella Futures, The Academy for Educational Development, The American College of Nurse-Midwives and IMA World Health

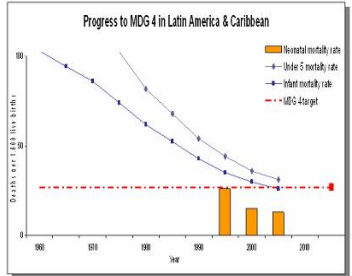
Partner Members



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Each year in Latin America and the Caribbean region:

22,000 mothers die of pregnancy related causes (MMR 150 per 100,000 lb)
180,000 newborns die during their first month of life (NMR 15 per 1,000 lb)

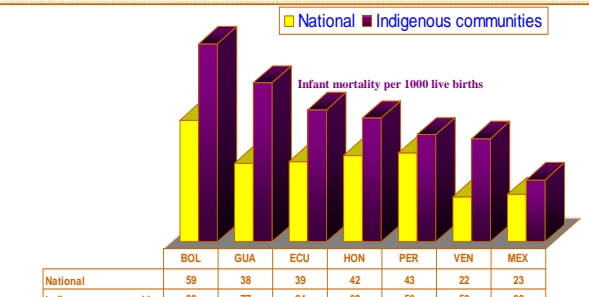


Regional Disparities: NMR
Haiti 34 per 1,000 LB
Bolivia 27 per 1,000 LB
Guatemala 24 per 1,000 LB


With a modest effort and targeted interventions focused on early newborn care, including policies which address health care inequities, the LAC region could achieve MDG 4 for child survival by 2015



Children and indigenous mothers: Inequity gaps in selected communities



	BOL	GUA	ECU	HON	PER	VEN	MEX
National	59	38	39	42	43	22	23
Indigenous communities	96	77	64	60	52	50	30



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Regional policy efforts In LAC

- Establish the Neonatal Interagency Group:
 - USAID, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, ACCESS, BASICS, Save the Children/SNL, CORE group, URC, POPPHI
- Develop a Regional Neonatal Strategy
 - Draft – final – approval – dissemination
- Develop a Regional Action Plan (August 2007 in Paraguay) – first draft
- Creation of the Neonatal Alliance for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Define common indicators for newborn care in the Region




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Steps to Develop the Neonatal Regional Strategy:

- Establish an Interagency “Partner Working Group” (PWG)
 - PAHO/WHO, USAID, UNICEF, ACCESS, BASICS, CORE Group, Save the Children/Saving Newborn Lives
- Regional Situational Analysis



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Steps to develop the Regional Strategy - continue...

- Regional Workshop Antigua Guatemala – 16 countries represented
 - February 2006
- Resolution approved by the PAHO Executive Committee
 - June 2006
- Resolution CD47.R19 approved by PAHO's Directing Council
 - September, 2006
- Regional Workshop Action Plan for the Strategy – Asuncion, Paraguay
 - August 2007
- Regional Action Plan submitted to PAHO's Board of Directors for approval
 - September 2008



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Regional Strategy Launch

- Official Multi-agency Launch led by PAHO & USAID, and financed by SNL/Save the Children took place in Washington DC in June 2007
- A Regional Neonatal Alliance was established
- National launches are currently underway in collaboration with Alliance partners



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Scaling up through partners within the LAC region

- Country launches of Regional Strategy
- Preparation of a regional workshop with Pediatric and Obstetric Societies – led by PAHO and SNL
- Establish a Neonatal Alliance website led by URC
- Implementation of Postnatal Care operations research under the Regional Strategy umbrella
- Operations research conducted by SNL in Bolivia and Guatemala with possible expansion to other sites, such as in Peru with UNICEF and in Haiti with USAID
- Newborn Sepsis program by BASICS



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Key elements of the Regional Plan of Action

1. Need for prioritizing neonatal health policies and programs in the context of maternal, newborn and child health
2. Strengthen and promote universal access to health services for mothers and newborns.
3. Provide opportune protection and timely cost effective and high impact interventions throughout the maternal, neonatal and child health continuum.
4. Promote newborn care without gender discrimination.



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Key elements of the RPA, continued..

4. Prioritize the most disadvantaged populations: rural, indigenous, displaced, poorest of the poor, girls and adolescents.
5. Develop and strengthen a monitoring system and epidemiological surveillance that is active and in real time.
6. Formulate a strategy and Regional Plan of Action, including intermediate and final plans to reach the MDGs 2010-2015



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Challenges during the process

- **The challenges of working together as partners:**
 - Initial timeline was too optimistic
 - Translations require time and review
 - Input from countries is critical
 - Negotiation skills are essential
 - Establishing a national working group with stakeholders in-country was critical for developing an enabling environment at the local level



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Lessons Learned

- Working with partners led to greater contributions and policy change, including socialization of interventions
- Partners must be prepared to work towards one common goal
- Involving countries from the beginning helps garner support for regional initiatives
- There is a need to understand that building regional consensus and policies can be a time consuming and slow process, yet is necessary to achieve goals



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What is next

- Interagency Strategic Consensus document published in four languages – dissemination in progress
- Approval of the Regional Action Plan by PAHO's Board of Directors in Washington DC (September 2008)
- Development and approval of country-specific National Action Plans 2007-2009



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