Zika virus operation in the Americas

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

(Based on PAHO / WHO weekly reports, 24 June and 16 June, respectively)

Produced on June 21, 2016 with data from June 16, 2016

Numbers of Cases of Zika Virus Disease (confirmed and suspected)

Produced on June 21, 2016 with data from June 16, 2016

Number of Cases

1 199,907

Produced by SIMS. Supported by the American Red Cross and British Red Cross.

Sources: PAHO and GADM
http://ais.paho.org/phviz/red_zika_cases.asp

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
As of 16 June, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 46 worldwide countries and territories have confirmed Zika virus (ZIKV) disease outbreaks since 2015 with current vector-borne transmission.

In the Americas region, as of 16 June, WHO has reported that 40 countries (and regions) have confirmed local, vector-borne transmission of ZIKV, being Anguilla the latest. To date a total of 398,626 suspected cases, 56,350 confirmed cases and 9 deaths associated with ZIKV have been reported. However, there is a downward trend in the number of reported ZIKV cases in the region. For instance, Colombia reports a downward trend in cases at national level with an upward trend in some regions, while Caribbean countries such as Martinique, Saint-Barthélemy and The Guianas have seen a decrease in cases, and Guadeloupe and Saint-Martin Island report an upward trend.

ZIKV epidemiological situation in Bolivia

According to the Ministry of Health, in Bolivia there are 438 suspected ZIKV cases, with an increasing prevalence in female population between 20 and 30 years of age. According to WHO, as of 24 June, 124 ZIKV cases have been confirmed in the country. It is important to note that Bolivia has three bordering departments next to Brazil (Pando, Beni and Santa Cruz de la Sierra), but 99 per cent of ZIKV cases in Bolivia have been reported in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. One of the main factors contributing to this situation is the constant circulation between these two countries thanks to the Interoceanic Corridor that not only connects Brazil and Bolivia, but also Bolivia, Chile and Peru. However, ZIKV transmission is low in Bolivian border areas compared to the number of ZIKV cases in Brazil’s bordering departments, as seen in Table 1.

| TABLA 1 ZIKV CASES IN BRASIL - BOLIVIA BORDER AREAS |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| **Brazil**                               | **N° cases** | **Bolivia**    | **N° cases** |
| Acre                                     | 823        | Pando          | 0            |
| Rondonia                                 | 960        | Beni           | 2            |
| Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul       | 18847      | Santa Cruz de la Sierra | 434 |

Source: Epidemiological Bulletin N° 24, 2016, Ministerio de Salude, Brazil; SNIS-VE MINSA Statistical Data, Bolivia.

Statistical Data on pregnant women, microcephaly, congenital syndrome and Guillain-Barré syndrome cases associated with ZIKV infection

7 countries in the Americas have reported congenital syndrome associated with local transmission of ZIKV. 1,637 cases have been confirmed in the region, with the highest prevalence in Brazil. El Salvador has been the last country to report a laboratory-confirmed microcephaly case associated with ZIKV infection.

To date 21 countries have reported suspected and confirmed ZIKV cases in pregnant women, with a higher prevalence in Colombia, with 11,188 suspected cases and 5,420 confirmed cases according to the INS report, followed by Brazil, with 11,557 suspected cases and 4,390 confirmed cases according to the Sinan-NET – Ministry of Health of Brazil. This data shows that there might be an upward trend in congenital syndrome associated with ZIKV transmission in the second semester of the year.

| TABLE 2: COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES REPORTING ZIKV DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Barbados                      | Ecuador         | Martinica      | Dominican Republic |
| Brasil                        | El Salvador     | México         | Saint-Martin    |
| Bolivia                       | French Guiana   | Nicaragua      | Venezuela       |
| Colombia                      | Guadeloupe      | Panamá         |                |
| Costa Rica                    | Guatemala       | Paraguay       |                |
| Dominica                      | Honduras        | Puerto Rico    |                |

Source: PAHO Regional Zika Epidemiological Update (Americas) - 16 June 2016
According to PAHO, 11 countries and territories in the Region have reported an increase in cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), and three other countries and territories have identified Zika-virus-associated GBS cases without recording an increase in GBS cases.

**New risk conditions**

**A H1N1 Influenza**

According to PAHO epidemiological reports, as of EW 23, 35,636 influenza A(H1N1) cases have been reported in the Americas, a significant increase compared to the same period in 2015. This upward trend continued from EW 1 to EW 10, with the majority of cases being reported in EW 10 (4,325 cases), and then the number of cases decreased until EW 23.

![Figure 1: AH1N1 influenza cases in the Americas (2015 – 2016)](image)

The countries reporting the highest influenza prevalence are: United States in North America, Panama in Central America and Brazil in South America.

Caribbean countries showed an upward trend from December 2015 to March 2016, with a later downward trend up to date.

The second quarter of 2016 has seen an upward trend in Panama, Colombia and Argentina.

![Figure 2: AH1N1 influenza cases per country, EW 1 – EW 23](image)

According to the Ministry of Health of Panama, AH1N1 influenza virus was laboratory-confirmed in 95 of 102 samples. For this reason, the Ministry of Health launched an epidemiological alert with the start of the influenza season given the increase in influenza circulation in Panama.
Yellow fever
According to the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases (ProMED), Brazil will start asking travellers coming from Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide the international certificate of vaccination. It will be a preventive and temporary measure given the massive circulation of people during the Olympics.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE:
PAHO Regional Zika Epidemiological Update (Americas) - 23 June 2016

Epidemiological Bulletin N° 30 - COES Microcefalia MINSA Brazil

Statistical data on influenza, PAHO

ProMed
http://www.promedmail.org/es

ZIKA OPERATION

Financial situation

Global appeal

CHF 9,266,981

24% coverage soft and hard pledges

Regional appeal

CHF 8,478,961

26% coverage soft and hard pledges

Donors

American Red Cross | Netherlands
Red Cross and Government |
Japanese Red Cross and Government |
Swedish Red Cross | Canadian Red Cross and Government |
Finnish Red Cross | Red Cross of Monaco |
Spanish Red Cross | Norwegian Red Cross

Donate now

National Societies actions

• Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panamá, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay are involved in the Appeal in the Americas. All of these countries have received funds.
• Nicaragua and Peru have presented their Plans of Action. They will be approved in the coming weeks.
• CHF 1,200,000 have been allocated to cover national and community activities.
• 400,000 units of insect repellent and repellent coils has been delivered by SC Johnson directly to the National Societies of Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama and Peru. Read more (spanish)

Regional activities

• Ongoing Promotion of an epidemiological surveillance model among NSs.
• 9 CEA Plans have been developed by NSs.
• 5 field missions have been carried out to monitor Plans of Action in El Salvador, Panama, Colombia, Bolivia and Brazil
• The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through the Zika team operation visited Bolivia from 30 May to 5 June in order to learn about the progress made in implementing the Plan Response with the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC). This technical mission focused on visiting the Riberalta CRB branch in the Department of El Beni, 80 km from the Brazilian border. This forest area favours Zika virus transmission and it is also an endemic area for dengue and chikungunya, according to the Ministry of Health. Read more
• From 6 to 8 May, the Zika operation team visited Bogota in order to learn about the progress made in the implementation of the Plan Response with the Colombian Red Cross (CRC)
• The ZIKA Americas website will be launched in a couple of weeks.
Fund raising at regional level

- Inter-American Development Bank: Discussions are taking place to explore possible synergies and available resources.
- IFRC Americas and Save the Children USA have submitted a proposal to USAID (USD 9.5 million).

Rio 2016 Olympics

- Since the 2016 Olympics are priority number 1 for the Operation, the Regional Office and the Zika Team are working closely with the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) in order to develop a communication/prevention campaign during the event.
- The Americas Zika Team visited Brazil from 13 to 17 June to monitor the BRC Plan of Action.

Volunteers

- More than 600 volunteers are working in Brazil leading the field response.
- Around 2,000 volunteers are involved in the outbreak response in the Americas.

Partnership and strategic alliances

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Joint mechanisms are being explored aimed at maximizing Zika advocacy in the region. The idea is to have a partnership to improve the visibility of the crisis and its social impact. The process is still in preliminary stages, it is likely that it will include a study on the socio-economic impact of Zika in Brazil, Suriname and Colombia. Save the Children: An Education, Information and Communication kit, originally produced by Save the Children, will be jointly updated and used regionally by the IFRC, and disseminated to all NSs. New specific materials targeting pregnant women and couples in sexual and reproductive age will be jointly produced by IFRC and Save the Children.
- UNICEF: Meetings have been taken place to search for synergies between the regional Zika communications plan and the UNICEF’s regional health cluster Zika cell on issues related to communications. Moreover, the IFRC is currently exploring possibilities of using the U-Report social messaging tool aiming at collecting feedback information, and rumours among communities in the NSs’ countries.
WHO statement on the third meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR(2005)) Emergency Committee on Zika virus and observed increase in neurological disorders and neonatal malformations.

The Committee concluded that there is a very low risk of further international spread of Zika virus as a result of the Olympic and Paralympic Games as Brazil will be hosting the Games during the Brazilian winter when the intensity of autochthonous transmission of arboviruses, such as dengue and Zika viruses, will be minimal. Brazil is also intensifying vector-control measures in and around the venues for the Games which should further reduce the risk of transmission. The Committee reaffirmed its previous advice that there should be no general restrictions on travel and trade with countries, areas and/or territories with Zika virus transmission, including the cities in Brazil that will be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games. 

First Zika vaccine to be tested in humans

Inovio Pharmaceuticals will be starting phase I of the GLS-5700 vaccine trial to fight Zika virus infection. 40 healthy volunteers will be tested within the following weeks. 

WHO confirms Zika virus strain imported from the Americas to Cape Verde.

Sequencing of the virus in Cape Verde by Institute Pasteur, Dakar confirms that the Zika virus currently circulating in Cape Verde is the same as the one circulating in the Americas - the Asian type- and was most likely imported from Brazil. This is the first time that the Zika strain responsible for the outbreaks linked to neurological disorders and microcephaly has been detected in Africa.

Zika Virus Disease in Colombia - Preliminary Report.

Regarding the Association between Zika virus and microcephaly, this study shows that maternal infection with the Zika virus during the third trimester of pregnancy is not linked to structural abnormalities in the fetus. However, further research is needed and more papers will be published on this research.

WHO - Zika Strategic Response Plan

The World Health Organization launches its Zika Strategic Response Plan to guide global response to Zika virus infection, its complications and its consequences. This plan is focused on pregnant women, their partners, households and communities and encompasses integrated vector management, sexual and reproductive health counselling as well as health education and care within the social and legal contexts of each country where Zika virus is being transmitted.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Draft Interim Response Plan

The CDC launches a Zika response plan as a guide for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Special thanks to: Bolivian Red Cross for their support in building the newsletter.

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Suggested links
- Zika virus: know more and take action - IFRC
- Zika virus: the IFRC response
- WHO
- Epidemiological alerts
- PAHO Zika Database
- CDC

ZIKA: Information radio campaign from UNESCO - IFRC - WHO
Download the spots

RADIO
Zika special program
Every Wednesday
9:30 a.m.
http://www.amcross.org/radio.html

For more information about how to contribute: