WHO Regional Perspectives

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PAHO/WHO

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Supranational laboratory network

- Massachusetts State Laboratory Institute
- Mycobacteriology/TB Laboratory, CDC
- Pasteur Institute of Guadeloupe
- Institute for Diagnosis and Epidemiological Reference InDRE
- Public Health Institute
- National Institute for Infectious Diseases
**Operation of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO**

**ORGANIZATION**

- Countries distribution for SRL (% of cases SS+ notified in 2008):
  
  - Massachusetts State Laboratory Institut -US:
    - Peru
    - Haiti
    - Guyana
    - Belice
    - Jamaica
    - Surinam
    - Other Caribbean countries
    - 28%
  
  - Public Health Institute Santiago de Chile
    - Peru
    - Bolivia
    - Ecuador
    - Colombia
    - Dominican Republic
    - 20%
  
  - National Institute for Infectious Diseases, Buenos Aires–Argentina
    - Brasil
    - Paraguay
    - Uruguay
    - Venezuela
    - Cuba
    - 45%
  
  - Institute for Diagnosis and Epidemiological Reference InDRE, Mexico
    - Guatemala
    - El Salvador
    - Honduras
    - Panama
    - Nicaragua
    - Costa Rica
    - 8%
  
  - Mycobacteriology/TB Laboratory, CDC-US
    - Mexico → TA
  
  - Pasteur Institute of Guadeloupe –France
    - Haiti
    - Guyana
    - TA and training
ACHIEVEMENTS 2006 -2009
Mexico, Chile, Argentina with two WHO TB Collaborating Centers (Cuba and Argentina) and recently incorporation of Massachusetts to establish a Technical Group integrated to the PAHO TB Regional Programme:

Activities developed:

EQA:

• EQA for DST (IUATLD/WHO standardised strain panels) → 16 countries in 2009 (almost all countries performing DST)
• EQA for Drug Resistance Surveys performed in PER, COL, NIC, ELS, DOR, BRA and PAR

Technical Assistance:

SRLs participated in PAHO missions to ELS, HON, GUT, DOR, HAI, GUY, JAM, COL, ECU, BOL, PER, BRA, PAR, ARG .... (2006-2010)
**Operation of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO**

**ACHIEVEMENTS 2006 -2009**

Mexico, Chile, Argentina with two WHO TB Collaborating Centers (Cuba and Argentina) and recently incorporation of Massachusetts to establish a Technical Group integrated to the PAHO Regional Programme on TB:

**Activities developed:**

**Documents :**

- Survey on methods used for smear microscopy EQA (2006 survey)
- Survey on structure and resources of National TB laboratories network (2006-2007 survey)

**Regional norms and standards:**

- Updated guidelines on smear microscopy, culture (published in 2008), DST and EQA for microscopy, culture and DST (to be edited in 2010)
- Position paper on new TB diagnostics considering the Region situation (2007)

**Training:**

- New tools for TB diagnosis (2009)
Operation of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO

ACHIEVEMENTS TO 2006 - 2010

Mexico, Chile, Argentina with two WHO TB Collaborating Centers (Cuba and Argentina) and recently with the incorporation of Massachusetts Institute to establish a Technical Group integrated to the PAHO TB Regional Programme.

Laboratory strategies for different situations
- TB high incidence countries → annual Meetings/Workshops 2005-2010
- TB low incidence countries → one workshop in 2006
- MDR-TB key and high priority countries → workshops for MDR-TB management 2007 and 2010

Annual meetings involving SRLs
- To evaluate activities
- To share information
- To develop annual plan

Other activities:
- Provision of culture and DST (1st line drugs) services for Caribbean countries
- Provision of 2nd line DST for Ecuador, Bolivia, DOR, Colombia
- Training for NRLs professionals
CHALLENGES

• Distribution of the countries by SRL in function of geographical accessibility and language and not in function of TB burden, staffing and technical capacity???

• Human Resources in SRLs in LAC:
  – Retirement of two SRL managers:
    • Involvement of a new SRL?
    • Re-evaluation of technical capacity of the existing SRLs?
    • Intensive training of professionals of the existing SRLs??
  – The staff existing are adequate to support national activities but insufficient to deal with international activities

• Funds for SRLs in LAC
  – The national institutions that host these SRLs under the MoH umbrella are not able to allocate funds for international support, thus this activity depends entirely on external funding.
  – PAHO has been mobilizing funds but not enough to needs
Needs of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO

• Renovate political commitment and establishment of formal relationship with National Health Authorities

• To reinforce the technical capacity of SRLs –from LA countries-
  • Increase funds for the international activities
  • Reinforcement of HR involved in international activities
  • Renovation of equipment and acquisition of reagents and consumables
  • Training of junior professionals (visits of SRLs of developed countries and participation in international courses and missions)
  • Increase research activities

• Coordination of SRLs activities at regional level – focal point for laboratory issues in PAHO
What SRL network in general needs from GLI?

- Definition of new terms of reference in accordance with the actual situation
- Define comprehensive criteria for country distribution per SRL
- Define criteria for designation and resignation of SRLs
- Define economical requirements for a SRLs from middle-income countries
- Decentralize the structure and functions of SRLs network
- Facilitate exportation/importation of *M. tuberculosis* strains (not only for EQA but also for X/MDR TB diagnosis).
Sources of funding available for SRL support at regional level

- **USAID → PAHO umbrella project**
  - Annual meetings
  - Country missions
  - Documents – edition and printing

- **AECID (Spain) → PAHO project**
  - Training courses
  - Documents
  - Funds for SRL activities

- **PAHO regional budget:**
  - Country missions

- **Country level → Global Fund and national budget??**

FUNDS DO NOT COVER THE NEEDS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SRLs’ NETWORK
Proposed next steps

Strengthening the SRL network to respond to MDR-TB expansion Plan in the Americas:

Technical support to countries

- **Surveillance**
  - Systematic in all retreat cases
  - Systematic, sentinel or periodic in new cases

- **Retooling** → rapid test for DR

- **TA for HR development**

- **Biosafety in the national network**

- **Annual monitoring and evaluation missions to the NRLs**

- **Capacity building:**
  - Training on biosafety - BSC verification
  - Training on SLD susceptibility testing

- **Improvement laboratory information system:**
  - Creation of database to monitor laboratory networks performance at regional and country level
THANK YOU

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