



Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

16th Canadian Conference on International Health

Promoting Health Equity in the Americas: The Perspective of the Pan American Health Organization

<http://www.paho.org>



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Jon Kim Andrus, M.D.
Deputy Director

Mission, Values, Equity and Pan Americanism

Mission:


To lead strategic collaborative efforts among Member States and other partners to promote equity in health, to combat disease, and to improve the quality of and lengthen the lives of the peoples of the Americas.

Values:


Equity, excellence, solidarity, respect, integrity

Equity and Pan Americanism:

PAHO focuses on equity to improve health for the most vulnerable and to analyze the gaps, which are the world's largest in the Western Hemisphere. PAHO also seeks cooperation among countries to foster Pan Americanism and reduce the burden of ill health in the Americas.

The Alma Ata Conference,
12 Sept. 1978



The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals are time-bound and measurable goals and targets to be achieved between 1990 and 2015, they include:

1. Halving extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieving universal primary education
3. Promoting gender equality
4. Reducing under-five mortality by two-thirds



The Millennium Development Goals (cont.)

5. Reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters
6. Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB
7. Ensuring environmental sustainability
8. Developing a global partnership for development with targets for aid, trade, and debt relief



Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017

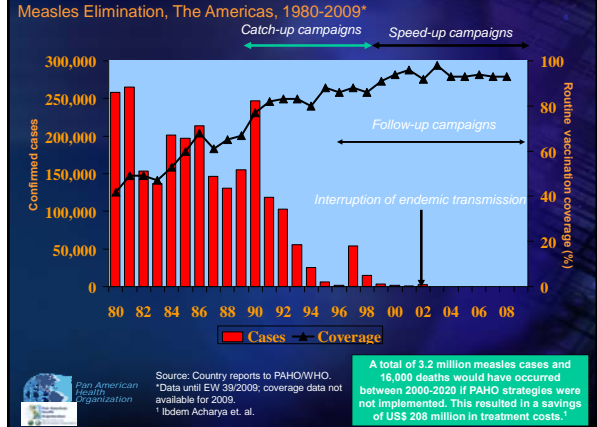
Areas of Action:

- (a) Strengthening the National Health Authority
- (b) Tackling Health Determinants
- (c) Increasing Social Protection and Access to Quality Health Services
- (d) Diminishing Health Inequalities among Countries, and Inequities within Them
- (e) Reducing the Risk and Burden of Disease
- (f) Strengthening the Management and Development of Health Workers
- (g) Harnessing Knowledge, Science, and Technology
- (h) Strengthening Health Security

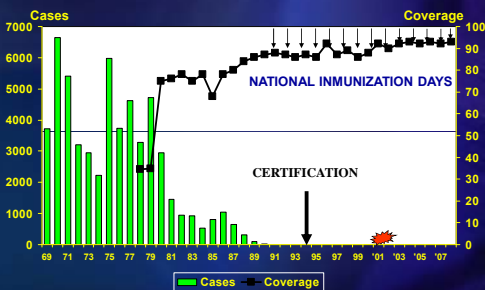


Critical Factors for Regional Progress

- Sustainability of interventions
- Political commitment
- Sound program management
- National plans of action
- Well-functioning technical oversight and partner coordination
- Adequate surveillance system
- Permanent technical cooperation support for countries in greatest need
- Cross border cooperation
- Ability to respond to exceptional circumstances



Polio Cases and OPV3 Coverage American Region, 1969 - 2008



Hispaniola outbreak, Sabin-derived

Success Factors

The experience and confidence gained with each achievement have been central to the success of the immunization initiatives in the Americas.

Strategies always rely on:

- Immunizing susceptible populations
- Conducting effective surveillance
- Assuring a sustainable vaccine supply (RF)
- Rapid deployment in alignment with a culture of prevention

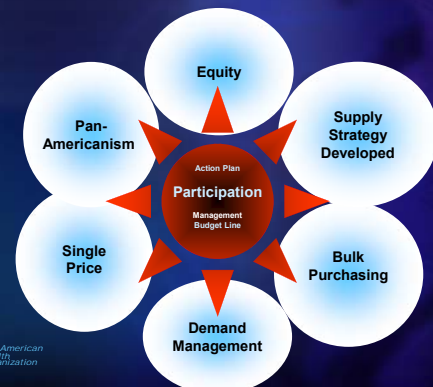


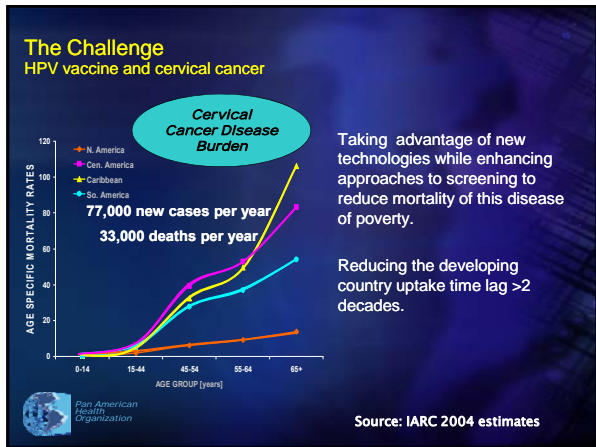
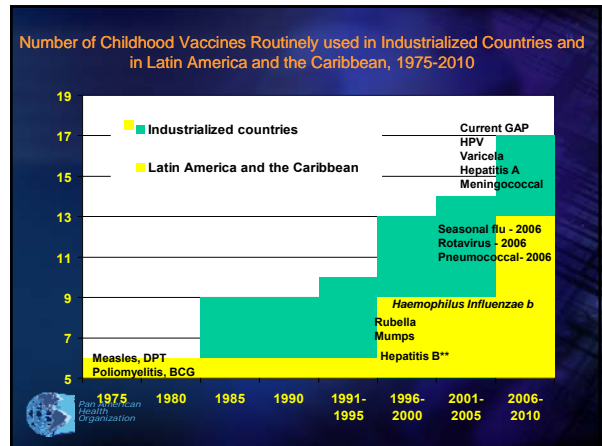
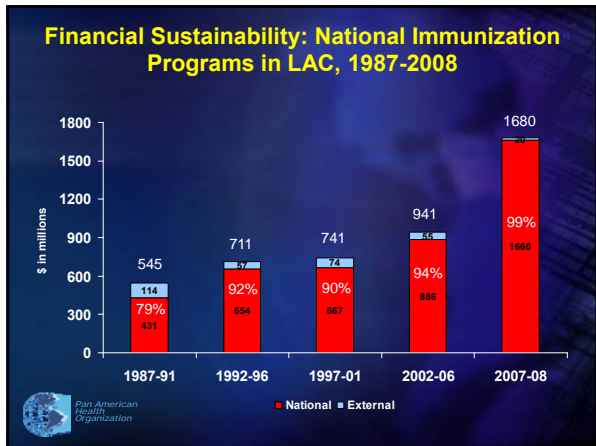
PAHO's Revolving Fund: Brief History

- 30 yrs experience supplying safe, effective vaccines
- Initially: 6 antigens / 8 members
Currently: 28 antigens / 38 members
- Based on PAHO's values
- Effective financing mechanism for uninterrupted, sustained supply



PAHO's Revolving Fund: Characteristics



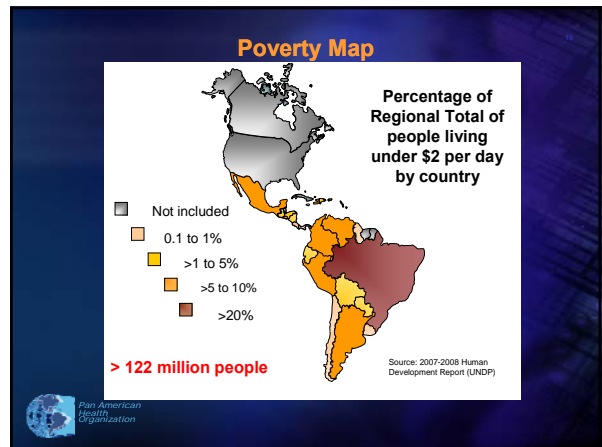
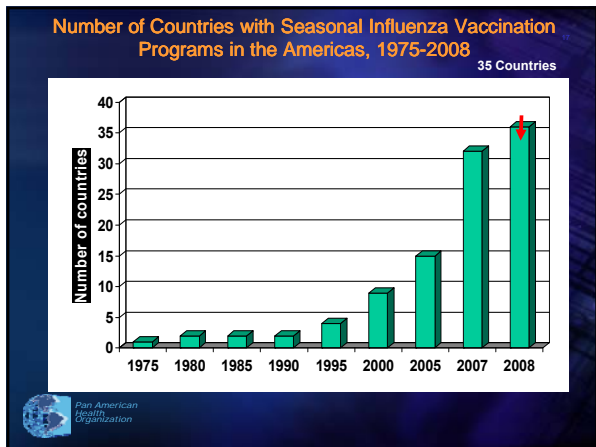


47th Directing Council September 2006

Urged Member States to:

- Expand legal and fiscal space and identify new revenue sources to sustainably finance the introduction of new vaccines against rotavirus, pneumococcus, influenza, and human papillomavirus;
- Support mortality reduction targets consistent with GIVS and the MDGs, for HPV, RV, influenza, and pneumo-associated diseases;
- Utilize the PAHO Revolving Fund to purchase new and underutilized vaccines.

Source: Pan American Health Organization



New Vaccines Introduction: Experience and Results in the Americas

- CIDA's support allowed the Region of the Americas to champion laboratory surveillance for *S. pneumoniae*, *H. Influenzae* and *N. meningitidis*
- 23 countries involved in the laboratory surveillance of invasive diseases
- Standardized surveillance of bacterial pneumonias and meningitis in sentinel hospitals in Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay, Panama, to name a few
- Standardized surveillance of diarrheas in sentinel hospitals in Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and the Caribbean
- As of 2008, 35 countries have introduced the seasonal influenza vaccine in the Region



Vaccination Week in the Americas: an approach for increasing awareness and coverage

PAHO/AMRO
Promoting equity and access to immunizations

Over 254 million vaccinations since 2003 in all age groups

In Honduras, 11% of children (2,089) between the ages of 1-4 years targeted for vaccination during VWA 2008 had not received any doses of DPT/pentavalente or had incomplete schedules.

EURO
32 participating in countries in 2008
2 million supplementary vaccinations administered

EMRO
Gearing towards immunization weeks in 2010



Dr. Al Gezairy (RD-EMRO), Chan (Director-General, WHO), Roses (RD-AMRO/PAHO) and Danzon (RD-EURO) in a video promoting Vaccination Week

→ On the way to World Immunization week in 2011: AFRO, SEARO, WPRO



Possible Risks in the Future...

- The evidence is compelling that the RF policy of single best market price linked with the power of bulk purchasing will be critical to accelerated and sustained uptake of pneumococcal, RV, and HPV in participating LAC countries.
- If the intro of pneumococcal & rotavirus vaccines delays like hepatitis B vaccine introduction delayed, almost one million children will die from vaccine-preventable diseases within the next 30 years.
- MDG 4 will not be reached.



GLOBAL OBESITY FORECAST

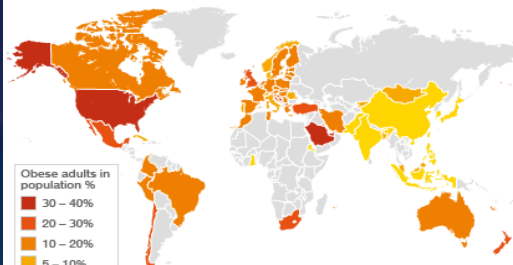
World population (billions)



SOURCE: World Health Organization, 2005



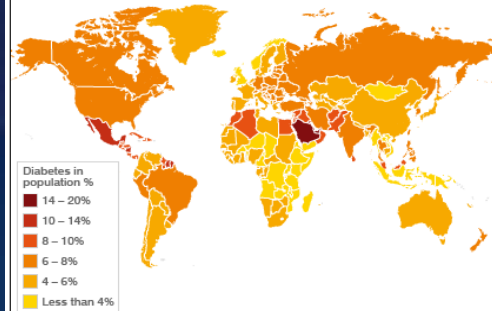
THE GLOBAL OBESITY PROBLEM



An obese adult is classified as having a Body Mass Index equal to or greater than 30 SOURCE: World Health Organization, 2005



ESTIMATED PREVALENCE OF DIABETES IN 2007



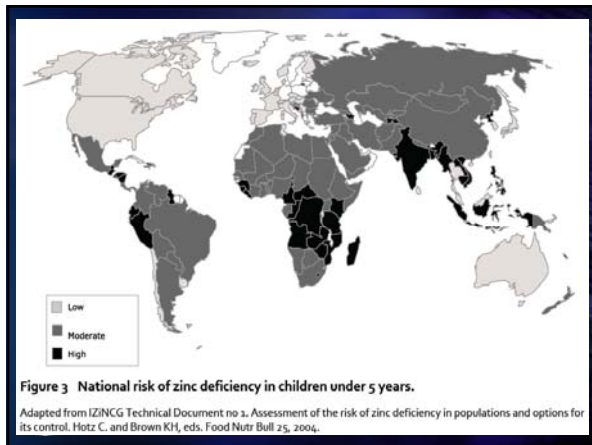
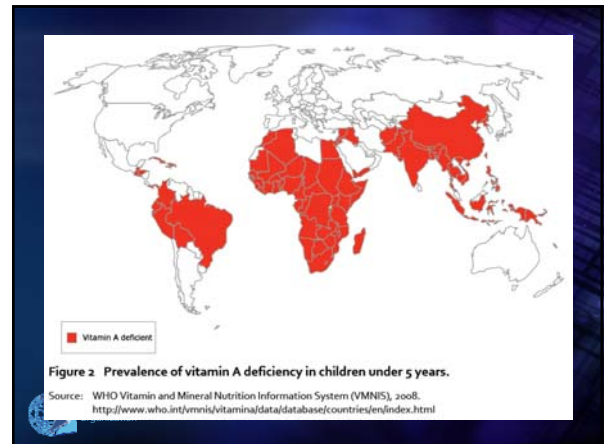
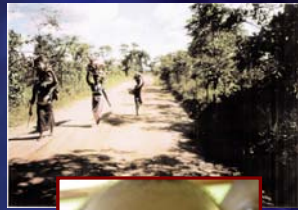
Map shows type 1 and type 2 diabetes
Obesity and type 2 diabetes are causally linked

SOURCE: Diabetes Atlas, 2006



Poorest communities:

- Increased proportion in rural population
- Scarce food sources
- High energy demand of survival activities
- Difficult to gain weight
- Under nutrition is the great burden of disease



Vitamin A and Zinc Micronutrient Deficiency in Developing Countries

Vitamin A supplementation can reduce all-cause of mortality of children aged 6-59 months by 23%

Therapeutic zinc supplements for diarrhea can reduce diarrhea-related mortality by 50%

Best Practices Paper: Copenhagen Consensus Center. Micronutrient Supplements For Child Survival (Vitamin A and Zinc). Horton et al. 2009.

Child Obesity Expected to Increase by 2010

- ~50% of children in North & South America will be overweight.
- In the EU, ~38% will be overweight.
- 20% of Chinese children overweight.
- Increases expected in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Middle East, and SE Asia.

"We have truly a global epidemic..."

Source: AP 3/7/06. (From the International Journal of Pediatric Obesity, 2006) <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11694799>



In summary, there is no magic bullet to ensure equitable and sustainable public health services to peoples of developing countries. Ultimately, the solution requires a strategic vision grounded in long-term goals, not short-term fixes.

