

## National forum of Leptospirosis of Nicaragua

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### **Preliminary analysis of the Inter-institutional Plan of comprehensive approach to leptospirosis**

*Dr. Aida Soto, National Officer/PAHO-Nicaragua*

During her presentation Dr. Soto showed the results of the inter-institutional committee for leptospirosis and explained that they are organized based on the biological cycle of the disease, emphasizing on critical areas such as Leon and Chinandega for being endemic areas and in strengthening the leadership of the Ministry of Health. A study was conducted to characterize the source of infection and the most important findings were: 1) 71% of the cases occurred in endemic localities, 2) an accurate characterization of serovars and positive isolation in reactor animals and non-reactors in order to proceed with medication, 3) the availability and quality of the water in the communities of Chinandega; where 53% of these localities uses wells as a source of water supply and 2% uses the river, unfortunately data for León were not available. Dr. Soto also explained the importance of trapping in order to characterize housing infestation by rodents. Using this method it was found that 51% of the zones were infested by rodents. Lastly, she described the disease behavior during the period of 2009-2011, with reduction in the past year, and made recommendations to carry out the same characterizations in other regions of the country.