



**(CAREC)  
PAHO/WHO**

# **Summary of Key Activities for 2010-2011 – Epidemiology and Surveillance**

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***Serving  
23 Member Countries  
in the English and Dutch  
Speaking Caribbean***

# Communicable Disease Surveillance

- Regional communicable disease surveillance system reviewed and being revised
- Interim regional surveillance guidelines produced and disseminated
- Weekly review of syndromic and laboratory data - identify and discuss alerts, possible clusters or outbreaks
- All countries contributing data to regional communicable disease surveillance system
- Challenges: Timeliness of reports & specimen collection

# International Health Regulations

- Evaluation of communicable disease surveillance system conducted in all independent countries
- Evaluations also conducted in five British dependent territories
- Represented member countries at regional IHR meetings
- Working towards achieving core capacities

# Respiratory illness surveillance

- Laboratory capacity strengthened in sentinel countries - training and provision of supplies and reagents
- Two National Influenza Centres and two additional countries doing PCR
- Training in basic epidemiology and data analysis for sentinel countries
- Specimen collection remains a challenge

# Food borne disease surveillance

- Promoted & strengthened national integrated food borne disease surveillance & laboratory testing in six countries
- Completed Burden of illness (BOI) studies in six countries
- Initiation of BOI studies in two countries
- Production of national BOI reports in five countries
- BOI studies strengthened national capacity in laboratory diagnosis and conducting studies

# Cholera preparedness

- Rapid assessment of preparedness activities
- Development and dissemination of guidelines and protocols
- Cholera preparedness workshop with PAHO
- Laboratory testing capacity strengthening for diarrhoeal illnesses – training and supplies

# HIV case-based surveillance

- HIV case-based surveillance methodology finalized, including protocol and data definitions
- Tools and templates developed for assessment, operation plan and action plan
- Joint regional plan for HIV surveillance
- Assessment and/or training for HIV case-based surveillance conducted in ten countries

# Non-communicable disease surveillance

- Routine NCD surveillance initiated - 13 countries initiating annual reporting on Minimum Data Set
- Five countries trained in Pan Am STEPS methodology for conducting risk factor surveys
- Plan developed for piloting a multimode approach for implementing continuous risk factor surveillance



# Non-communicable disease surveillance

Technical support provided for:

- Implementation and strengthening of cancer registries in six countries
- Building capacity for implementation and strengthening of stroke registries in four countries

# Mortality surveillance

- In-country installation & training in mortality coding software (MMDS) - now used in 11 countries
- Training conducted for 22 mortality coders from 19 countries on mortality coding and selection of the underlying cause of death
- Improving mortality database for easier data access and analysis

# Cross cutting

- Presentations accepted for, and delivered at, five international conferences
- Regional & in-country trainings in epidemiology, data analysis and outbreak investigation
- Represented member countries at several regional and international fora

# Thank you

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