



Training Workshop on the Management of Imported Measles and Rubella Cases in Bolivia

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Location	La Paz, Bolivia
Dates	19-20 October 2015
Participants	Managers of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), epidemiologists from all departments and those responsible for the two National Reference Laboratories (CENETROP and INLASA).
Purpose	1. Provide tools and training materials to form Rapid Response Teams (RRT) at the national level and in the 10 departmental health secretariats to respond to imported measles, rubella or Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) cases and avoid the reestablishment of endemic transmission in Bolivia and in our Region. 2. Monitor and provide PAHO/WHO technical support for the National Plan to Maintain the Elimination of Measles, Rubella and CRS in Bolivia, for the period 2016-2017. 3. Conduct a meeting with national authorities from the Ministry of Public Health-Bolivia and a training workshop with all of the EPI managers, epidemiologists from Bolivia's 10 departmental health secretariats and with those responsible for the two National Reference Laboratories (CENETROP and INLASA).

In compliance with the commitment to support Bolivia's national EPI to improve the quality of measles, rubella and CRS surveillance, an evaluation workshop and training of departmental health teams in the monitoring and rapid response against imported cases of these diseases were held.

The agenda included lectures on the global measles, rubella and CRS situation, as well as an assessment of the regional situation in the Americas and Bolivia.

Aspects of laboratory, epidemiological surveillance and the establishment of rapid response teams to deal with imported measles cases were discussed. Additionally, a knowledge pre-test related to these issues was conducted, to which the participants collectively responded with the answer of their choice using colored construction paper (see photos).



Participants at measles and rubella imported cases workshop in La Paz, Bolivia. Photo: Desiree Pastor, PAHO-Washington, DC.

Similarly, two real-life case studies on managing measles importations were given to participants so they could apply their knowledge to researching cases. Finally, simulations of interviews with measles and rubella cases were performed, with reports for Ministers of Health to provide evidence of virus circulation in the country. Simulations of advocacy at the political level for the deployment of quick control measures to control viral transmission were also performed.

The workshop ended with a presentation on issues of national discussion to implement the plan to sustain the elimination of these viruses in the period of 2016-2020.