



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Situation of Jungle Yellow Fever in the Region of the Americas

Up to 6 August 2003, a total of 160 confirmed cases of jungle yellow fever have been reported to the Pan American Health Organization, with 70 deaths (see Table 1). This number represents almost double the number of annual cases reported over the two previous years.

Eighty percent (80%) of the cases (136) were identified in two large outbreaks in Brazil and on the Colombian-Venezuelan border.

The first outbreak was reported by the Ministry of Health of Brazil and occurred between January and April, in Minas Gerais State, located in the southwest region of the country. This outbreak accounted for 57 cases, with 23 deaths. It was controlled after a mass vaccination of all residents of the affected and neighboring counties.

The second outbreak is under investigation on the Colombian-Venezuelan border. It started in January with 3 cases in Venezuela and 5 cases in Colombia. Those cases have triggered the intensification of vaccination in the affected areas resulting in the disappearance of cases at that time. After 18 weeks without detecting cases, there was a resurgence of jungle yellow fever starting in the Epidemiological Week 25. To date, Colombia has reported 67 cases, all of them in the Department of Norte de Santander. Venezuela has reported 4 cases distributed between the Zulia and Tachira States. In Colombia, the outbreak is attributed to an intense migration to the affected area of people employed in the harvesting of an illegal crop. The two countries are attempting to control the outbreak by implementing vaccination campaigns. The urban areas near this outbreak are infested with *Aedes aegypti*; thus, this situation requires vigorous and timely implementation of all the recommended measures to prevent the reurbanization of the disease on the American continent.

PAHO is following up very closely on the situation and providing all necessary technical support to the countries to control this outbreak.

**Table 1: Jungle Yellow Fever, Reported Cases and Deaths
(by country, Region of the Americas, to 6 August 2003)**

Country	Cases	Deaths
Bolivia	6	4
Brazil	62	23
Colombia	76	34
Peru	9	5
Venezuela	7	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>Source: Reports to PAHO by the Ministries of Health of the respective countries.</i>		