

International Meeting of countries that are facing outbreaks of Leptospirosis in the Americas



Application of the methodology of Risk Stratification and Identification of Driving Factors of Leptospirosis Outbreaks

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Dr. Schneider briefly explained the public health importance of leptospirosis as the cause of infections, the implications it has for health systems in Latin America and the relationship to natural events, climate, and geography in the Central American region with the presence of disease outbreaks. She also explained the importance of taking into account other variables such as socio economic factors. In addition, she described how the methodology can be implemented in participating countries and made suggestions for the revision of contingency plans for leptospirosis outbreaks and surveillance plans. She stressed the need to identify the capabilities that we have and to determine what we need in order to strengthen, improve, acquire or establish surveillance for leptospirosis. She mentioned the importance of epidemiological data collection for the disease, as well as the evaluation of the impact of the implemented strategies for the control of outbreaks by participating countries. Lastly, she stated that summaries of the WHO guides for important public health events have been made, in order to facilitate the task of the Rapid Response Teams and explained how the vulnerability index can be a tool used to focus and optimize resources in risk areas previously defined by health surveillance teams.