

## International meeting of countries that are facing Leptospirosis outbreaks in the Americas

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### Experience of Human Leptospirosis in the Republic of Honduras

*Dr. Reina Teresa Velásquez, Head of the Zoonoses Control Program of the Ministry of Health/Honduras*

Dr. Velasquez started her presentation by describing the epidemiological history of the disease with its first report in 1964 and its first outbreak in 1995, which presented cases with clinical manifestations similar to cases from Nicaragua for the same year. In 1998 Honduras conducted a prevalence study, which reported 29% prevalence in the northern and center of the country with Hepatorenal clinical characteristics. Because of these events, in 1999 weekly disease alert report was established. She showed the behavior of the disease for years, weeks, age and by departments. She then presented risk stratification for each department. There are 18 serogroups found in humans and she showed the distribution of the serogroups by department. To conclude her presentation she described how the program for zoonoses works. She said that other actors intervene in the contingency plans. She also explained that the activities of the national plan, the procedures followed for the confirmation of cases, the actions taken in an outbreak situation and the needs in order to prevent, detect and respond to outbreaks of leptospirosis.