**FIRST AUTOCHTHONOUS VECTOR-BORNE CASES**

In epidemiological week (EW) 4 of 2016, the Nicaragua International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) notified PAHO/WHO of the detection of the country’s first cases of autochthonous vector-borne transmission of Zika virus, which were reported from Managua Department in Western Nicaragua.1

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**

No information is available on the geographic distribution of cases.

**TREND**

During 2017, transmission of Zika continues in Nicaragua with less intensity compared to the large outbreak reported in 2016 when a peak was reached in EW 33 with over 800 Zika cases being reported (Figure 1). As of EW 20 of 2017, a total of 389 suspected and five confirmed cases of Zika have been reported in Nicaragua, compared to the 546 suspected and 192 confirmed Zika cases reported to PAHO/WHO by the Nicaragua IHR NFP on 27 January 2016.

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1 Nicaragua Ministry of Health. 22 May 2017. Health Situation Report 20. Available at: http://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php/repository/Descargas-MINSA/Direccio%C3%B3n-General-Vigilancia-de-la-Salud-P%C3%B3pilica/Boletines/Boletines-2017/Bolet%C3%ADn-Epidemiol%C3%B3gico-Semana-No.-20/

2 Reported to PAHO/WHO by the Nicaragua IHR NFP on 27 January 2016.
cases reported for the same period in 2016. This corresponds to a 30% and 97% reduction in suspected and confirmed Zika cases respectively in 2017. In the last 8 weeks (EW 13 to EW 20), an average of 17 Zika cases per week has been reported.

**CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES**

As of EW 20 of 2017, a total of 22,963 suspected and 1,047 confirmed dengue cases have been reported. This represents a 14% increase in suspected cases and a 52% decrease in confirmed cases compared to the same period in 2016. (Figure 2).

**Figure 2:** Number of suspected dengue cases. Nicaragua. 2011, 2016 and 2017 (up to EW 20 of 2017).

Source: Data published by the Nicaragua Ministry of Health and reproduced by PAHO/WHO

With regards to chikungunya, a total of 337 suspected and 8 confirmed cases have been reported up to EW 20 of 2017, compared to the 5,437 suspected and 403 confirmed cases reported for the same period in 2016. This represents a 93% and 98% reduction in suspected and confirmed chikungunya cases respectively in 2017 (Figure 3).

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Figure 3: Number of suspected chikungunya cases. Nicaragua. 2016-2017 (up to EW 20 of 2017).

Source: Data published by the Nicaragua Ministry of Health and reproduced by PAHO/WHO.

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

Information on Zika virus in pregnant women is only available up to EW 1 of 2017. A total of 1,117 pregnant women have been confirmed for Zika virus infection in Nicaragua up to EW 1 of 2017.4

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

ZIKA-VIRUS-ASSOCIATED GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME (GBS)

As of EW 22 of 2017, no cases of Zika-virus-associated Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or other neurological syndrome have been reported by Nicaragua health authorities.

CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 50 of 2016, two confirmed cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus infection were reported by Nicaragua health authorities.5

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 22 of 2017, no deaths among Zika cases have been reported by Nicaragua health authorities.

NATIONAL ZIKA SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES

No information is available on the national guidelines for Zika surveillance.

LABORATORY CAPACITY

Laboratory confirmation of suspected cases of Zika virus is performed by molecular detection (real time RT-PCR), including in-house multiplex platforms, by the Centro Nacional de Diagnóstico y Referencia (CNDR) at the Nicaragua Ministry of Health. Currently, CNDR is also implementing the serology diagnosis based on ELISA IgM detection.

INFORMATION-SHARING

In 2016, information on Zika used to be available through the press releases published by the Nicaragua information service website (El 19, Nicaragua’s digital portal for news), on a weekly basis. In 2017, information on Zika virus is available via the Nicaragua Ministry of Health Epidemiological Bulletin and the Health Situation Report. At the time of this report, the latest available Zika information for both the epidemiological bulletin and the health situation report was from EW 20 of 2017.