



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Dengue Outbreak in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia: Follow-Up

Summary of the Current Situation in Bolivia

Current reports show an increase in the transmission of dengue, with the greatest number of cases concentrated in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Up to 2 March 2007 (Epidemiological Week / EW No. 9), following up on the [Feb 8](#) update, the following figures have been reported:

- 1,569 suspected cases of dengue
- 5 cases of dengue hemorrhagic (DH)
- 1 death
- Case-fatality rate: 20%
- Affected department: Santa Cruz de la Sierra and small adjacent cities.



7 March 2007: In Bolivia, Santa Cruz de la Sierra is an endemic area for dengue, showing a quasi-seasonal behavior. Its periods of greatest incidence and reports of cases fall historically between the months of November and May, as is shown in the following figure from Weekly Surveillance Bulletin No. 4/2007 ([Boletín Semanal de Vigilancia](#) No. 4/2007) published by the National Health Information System (*Sistema Nacional de Información en Salud / SNIS*) of the Ministry of Health and Sports ([Ministerio de Salud y Deportes](#)) of Bolivia.

General Situation Report on Bolivia

Currently, most of Bolivia is being affected by heavy rainfalls and by floods due to El Niño. Flooding is expected to continue, given the heavy precipitation that has been affecting the country since the end of 2006.

Reports indicate that a total of 18,516 families have been affected (in the provinces of Cercado, Marbán, Moxos, Itenez, Ballivián, Vaca Diez and Yacuma) and that the Mamore River is rising at a rate of 14–16 cm daily in the town of Santa Ana. It is feared that families will suffer heavy damages, as has been the case to date with 1,200 of the 17,000 families residing there.

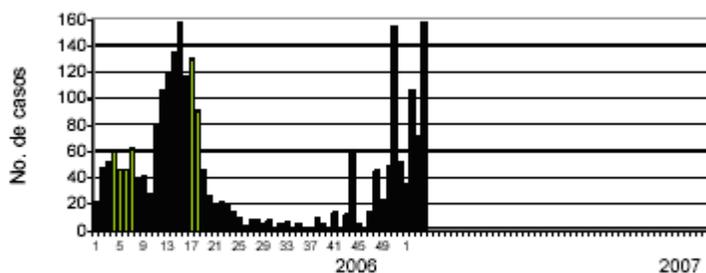
Prevention and Control Activities Underway

A meeting was held with Dr. César Reyes, Dr. Nyla Heredia, Minister of Health and Sports, and Dr. Nogales, Vice Minister of Health. A report was presented on the Situation Room and on activities currently being carried out:

- A second fumigation campaign.
- A vaccination campaign for yellow fever.
- Fumigation of all boats and vehicles coming from Santa Cruz.
- A refresher course held for medical staff in Trinidad (El Beni province) on clinical management of dengue cases; a total of 35 professionals attended the day-long session held on 23 February 2007, led by Dr. Carlos La Fuente.

Preparation of the *Strategy of Integrated Management for the Prevention and Control of Dengue in Bolivia*

Suspected Cases of Dengue by Epidemiological Week, Bolivia, 2007



Source: Boletín Semanal de Vigilancia (Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin) of the National Health Information System (Sistema Nacional de Información en Salud / SNIS), Ministry of Health and Sports of Bolivia, Epidemiological Week (EW) No. 4.

At present, the National Dengue Plan will incorporate the *Strategy of Integrated Management for the Prevention and Control of Dengue* ([EGI-Dengue](#)). By the end of first semester 2007, a sound technical document will have been produced, with the following aspects:

1. to serve as a standard guidebook for the roll-up of prevention and control activities; and
2. strengthen the capacities of the health sector to promote new extra-sectoral associations and methodologies for behavioral changes in controlling vector breeding sites, thus
3. making activities in the fight against dengue more sustainable and effective.

During the week of 19–24 March 2007, a workshop will be held to reinforce [COMBI](#) (*Communication for Behavioral Impact*). Dr. Linda Lloyd, in her capacity as PAHO/WHO Temporary Adviser and expert in the area of Mass Communication, will conduct the workshop.

Source: Information obtained by the [PAHO Regional Program on Dengue](#) through the PAHO Country Office in La Paz, Bolivia ([PAHO-Bolivia](#)), based on information obtained in issue 4/2007 of the Weekly Surveillance

Bulletin ([Boletín Semanal de Vigilancia](#) N° [4/2007](#)) published by the National Health Information System (*Sistema Nacional de Información en Salud* / [SNIS](#)) of the Ministry of Health and Sports ([Ministerio de Salud y Deportes](#)) of Bolivia.