



# Dengue Situation in Bolivia

(20 February 2009)

---

## 1. Current Situation of Dengue in Bolivia

Since beginning of the year up to 20 February 2009 the following have been reported:

- 25287 cases of suspected dengue fever
- 2831 cases of classic dengue fever
- 80 suspected cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF)
- 18 deaths (including 1 study).
- Fatality rate: 22.5%
- Identified serotypes: DEN 1, 2 and 3

Source: Epidemiology Unit, MSD and SNIS. Ministry of Health and Sports, Bolivia.

Find more information at: <http://www.sns.gov.bo/snis/default.aspx>

## 2. Prevention and Control Activities Underway

### a. Local-Level Activities

#### Santa Cruz de la Sierra

- On February 19, the Departmental EOC was activated and 7 working committees were defined.
- The communication committee developed a social mobilization plan for the next 7 days (period of Carnival)
- The patient care committee reviewed and updated protocols for patient care. The technical committee evaluating suspected cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), lead by expert Dr. Eric Martinez, is reviewing and verifying the clinical classification.

- The committee of environmental sanitation and vector control conducted activities at 416 sites in the District No.8. They found that tires account for 30% of all potential breeding sites.
- The epidemiological surveillance committee continues to work in improving the data flow.

### 3. PAHO Support

- In addition to the consultants who were already mobilized to Bolivia for the response, PAHO is also deploying a clinician, an entomologist, and two epidemiologists.
- The PAHO / WHO Dengue Regional Adviser, Dr. Jose Luis San Martin is now in Bolivia for the continuation of the technical support to the country.
- In December 2008, national experts, with support from the International Dengue Task Force (GT-Dengue) and PAHO/WHO, prepared the Integrated Strategy for Dengue Prevention and Control (EGI-Dengue) in Bolivia. At that time, the country also developed its EGI-Dengue Contingency Plan to Respond to Dengue Outbreaks and Epidemics, which served as a basis for the measures taken during the current outbreak.
- There is a better flow of information due to the activation of the situation room in Santa Cruz, which is coordinated jointly by the national technical team and PAHO. Equipment was provided for the situation rooms to strengthen the management of public health information.
- In the area of *Aedes aegypti* control, the PAHO/WHO entomology expert is advising staff from the National Center for Tropical Diseases (Centro Nacional de Enfermedades Tropicales / CENETROP), with the objective of providing support to surveillance and control activities. Seventeen persons will be working on municipal stratification to implement the strategy of Rapid Survey of Aedes Indices (Levantamiento de Índices Aédicos Rápido / LIRAA) in the four Urban Area Health Networks (Redes de Salud del Área Urbana). In addition, support is being provided to coordinate the purchase of fumigation equipment and pesticides.