



Council of Members Meeting
21 September, 2014

AGENDA ITEM 2.1d: Regional reports (for information only)

IAPB LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL REPORT

Reporting regional progress in Latin America against the three objectives of 'Universal Eye Health: A Global Action Plan 2014-2019'

Objective 1 - Evidence generated and used to advocate increased political and financial commitment of Member States for eye health

Global Indicators in Prevention of Blindness Project: A Regional Pilot

On March 10-12, the First Latin America Global Indicators in Prevention of Blindness Workshop was organized in Lima, Peru with financial support provided by the Fred Hollows Foundation with additional funding from IAPB/Orbis. The project is managed by Strategic Solutions, Inc, in partnership with IAPB, Orbis, and in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The project objective is to establish a regional mechanism to collect the new WHO GAP Indicators (prevalence and causes of visual impairment, cataract surgical rate [CSR], cataract surgical coverage [CSC], and the number (and distribution) of eye health professionals by cadre) with the collaboration in the pilot countries. Secondary objectives are to evaluate the feasibility of data collection and the reliability of the indicators and adequacy of the metrics used to define the indicators.

Twenty-three participants representing Strategic Solutions, IAPB, Orbis, PAHO and the International Council of Ophthalmology participated in the workshop with representatives from the Ministries of Health (MoHs), national societies of ophthalmology, and the national committees for the prevention of blindness/VISION 2020 (V2020) from Peru, Uruguay, Honduras, Mexico, and Chile. The purpose of the 3-day workshop was for the country representatives to have an understanding and awareness of the new global indicators related to the prevention of blindness. Teams presented on the current situation of data collection in their countries, developed data collection strategies, and drafted a project work plan for the next 6-9 months of implementation. Implementation is ongoing with follow-up visits to each country by the research team. Important outcomes of the March workshop were the reactivation of the national committees in Peru in April and in Mexico in June.

2013 Regional Eye Health Data

In June 2014, the 2013 regional data collection was updated, and complete data are available at:

http://www.v2020la.org/Joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=270&Itemid=155&lang=en.

Likewise, the LA Stat Map, the interactive, virtual data map was updated with key 2013 data on health/eye health indicators: <http://www.v2020la.org/StatPlanet/StatPlanet.html>.

RAAB Studies

- Three RAABs were completed in Q1 in Honduras, Panama, and Argentina.
- Two RAABs are to begin in Guatemala in late August and in Bolivia in late September.
- The results of the 2011 Uruguay RAAB have been submitted to the PAHO journal, Revista Panamericana de la Salud.

Stage 2 Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) Assessment at Fundación Visión, Paraguay

Stage 2, the control phase, of the DR assessment at Fundación Visión in Paraguay was completed in April 2013 by Dr Emilio Gonzalez, a 2nd-year resident, who is working under the supervision of Dr Patricio Pioli and with Dr Nathan Congdon as advisor. During this stage, there were 253 patients enrolled in the project, including 44 new recruits.

Phase 3 of the project will follow up on how many people who were screened actually attended the examination and how many actually received treatment. This should be completed by the end of September. A paper will then be drafted in collaboration with Nathan Congdon.

Publications, Guidelines, and Manuals

- The Argentina CSR paper was published in Archivos Brasileiros de Oftalmologia: Lansingh VC, Nano ME, Carter MJ, Zarate N, Resnikoff S, Eckert KA. Complexities and challenges of cataract surgical data collection: comparison of cataract surgery rates in all provinces of Argentina, 2001 vs 2008. Arq Bras Oftalmol. 2014;77(1):25-29. The study was also presented at the Unite for Sight Conference in New Haven, CT in April 2014.
- The Latin American data of the 2010 Global Burden of Disease Study was published in February: Leasher JL, Lansingh VL, Flaxman SR, et al. On behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group. Prevalence and causes of vision loss in Latin

America and the Caribbean: 1990-2010. Br J Ophthalmol

2014;doi10.1136/bjophthalmol-2013-304013. [Epub ahead of print].

- The January 2014 bulletin featured refractive errors in children. The April 2014 bulletin featured a compilation edition of highlighted articles of each of the 2013 bulletins. The July 2014 bulletin featured the new PAHO regional plan and World Sight Day.
- An article on cataract surgical barriers in the Americas published on-line first by the American Journal of Ophthalmology: Batlle JF, Lansingh VC, Silva JC, Eckert KA, Resnikoff S. Cataract situation in Latin America: barriers to cataract surgery. Am J Ophthalmol. 2014; doi: 10.1016/j.ajo.2014.04.019. [Epub ahead of print].
- Two book chapters were submitted to the 2nd edition of *Cristalino de las Américas*; one chapter addressed V2020 and another chapter addressed the epidemiology of the prevention of blindness in Latin America. The Big Mac paper is under review by the *Revista Mexicana de Oftalmología*. The cost of blindness paper was submitted to *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*.
- The Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) regional guidelines, which were drafted at the third Latin America ROP workshop in Cartagena in September 2013, are under review by PAHO, which will publish them as the official PAHO/WHO ROP Guidelines in the 3 official languages.
- The Regional Eye Health Manual has been developed by residents and is being re-drafted by two editors, who will next send it to Karl Goldnick and the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) to finalize. Publication is anticipated in October 2014.

Objective 2 - National eye health policies, plans and programmes for enhancing universal eye health developed and/or strengthened and implemented in line with WHO's framework for action for strengthening health systems in order to improve health outcomes

PAHO Regional Eye Health Plan

The PAHO Executive Committee, consisting of ministry representatives from Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Canada, Jamaica, and Bahamas approved the Regional Prevention of Blindness Action Plan for 2014-2019 (CE 154/18), which includes the GAP objective and indicators, as well as disease-specific objectives and indicators. In September, the plan will be presented to the Directing Council, when all regional governments will be present. A follow-up Latin American workshop is planned with MoH representatives in 2015.

V2020 Latin America (LA) Work Plan for 2014-2016

An operational planning meeting was organized in Lima in March 2014 for V2020 partners to share information and agree on a regional operational plan to take forward the objectives identified in the V2020 LA Strategic Plan in 2012. The planning was facilitated by Kristen Eckert, independent consultant. The V2020 LA Work Plan, 2014-2016 was circulated for feedback among key NGO stakeholders, including: Orbis, CBM, IEF, PAHO, SEVA, UNESCO, and LCIF. The plan has been finalized and will be presented at the V2020 Congress in October.

Other Policies, Plans, and Programmes Activities

- Mexico is to be the regional host of World Sight Day. The event will coincide with the WHO certification of the elimination of blinding trachoma in Mexico. Plans are also underway to develop a new national plan.
- On January 15, 2014, the MoH of Argentina passed Resolution N° 8/2014, which recognized the approval by the Argentine government of the WHO GAP for 2014-2019 and the government mandate to report the annual CSR, a global indicator of the GAP.
- A National Planning Workshop was organized in Lima, Peru in March 2014 to assess the implementation of the new national plan that was drafted in August 2013 and to consider the integration of the new WHO GAP global indicators. This workshop was organized with funding from IAPB/Orbis and was coordinated by the MoH. Approximately 50 people participated including representatives from IAPB, Orbis, and PAHO.
- A National Planning Workshop is planned for September 1-2 in Montevideo, Uruguay to integrate the results of the 2011 RAAB and new GAP indicators into a new national plan.

Objective 3 - Multisectoral engagement and effective partnerships for improved eye health strengthened

Multisectoral engagement and effective partnerships are at the core of IAPB/V2020 LA programming. At the regional level, we have the ongoing alliance in prevention of blindness with the IAPB, PAHO, and the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO). There are also 30 international, regional, and local non-governmental organizations members of V2020 LA:

http://www.v2020la.org/Joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=60&lang=en.

V2020 LA programming continues to expand and increase thanks to our very fruitful and positive partnership with Orbis and their generous financial support. In 2013, the Pan American Society of ROP was formed with representatives of the PAAO and V2020.

At the country level, the national committees (of V2020 or prevention of blindness) are integral to ensuring multisectoral participation and contribution from the MoHs, the national societies, the V2020 program, and in some cases, industry. The committees work to advocate for increased and updated eye health policies and programming in each country. This year, we are delighted to report that following the Global Indicators workshop in Lima, Peru in March, the national committees in Peru and Mexico were reactivated. Other key activities related to multisectoral engagement and partnership for this year are:

- The biennial V2020 LA Congress will be held October 5-7 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Visualiza is assisting with event coordination. The theme of the congress is No More Avoidable Blindness with a focus on the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan (GAP) for 2014-2019 (WHA 66/11).
- One activity undertaken to promote and strengthen multisectoral engagement and effective partnerships is through our participation in conferences/congresses related to eye health. These are excellent networking opportunities and give us an opportunity to present the results of our work to our peers and partners. This year, we have participated in the 30th National Congress for Residents in Ophthalmology (February, Mexico City, Mexico), the World Ophthalmology Congress (March, Tokyo, Japan), the Unite for Sight Conference (April, New Haven, CT, USA), and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting (May, Orlando, FL). We will also participate in the annual American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting in Chicago in October.