IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GAP IN LATIN AMERICA: INDICATORS AND DATA COLLECTION

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• All countries have national plans in place to address blindness prevention or specific eye diseases
• All regional governments in 2009 signed the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Resolution CD49-19, Plan of Action for the Prevention of Blindness and Visual Impairment, which currently is being updated in response to the new WHO GAP.
• National committees for the prevention of blindness/V2020 and national societies of ophthalmology report annually to VISION 2020 Latin America on the number of cataract surgeries and the number of ophthalmologists in each country, and the cataract surgical rate is calculated each year.
• Latin America currently has more population-based surveys (17 in 12 countries, in addition to a Panama RAAB recently finalized, others studies underway in Bolivia and Honduras, and more studies possibly planned in Venezuela and Guatemala)
National Planning Workshops and GAP Advocacy

National workshops are held every year throughout the region to draft, update, and/or advance the national plans on blindness and visual impairment. They serve as an important medium to advance the GAP at the country level.

• A national planning workshop was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in June with the attendance of 94 stakeholders, including the participation of V2020, ORBIS, PAHO, representatives of the MOH and local eye care programs, local Lions clubs, and the insurance and supplies industry.
  • Recommendations were drafted to create a national committee of blindness prevention to oversee the implementation of the drafted national plan, which was based on both the 2009-2013 PAHO regional and the 2014-2019 WHO global plans (and therefore advance the new GAP).

• An important and historic advocacy feat took place in Bolivia this past May. The first national committee for prevention of blindness was organized for the first time in Bolivia, upon approval of the May 1 MOH Resolution #0742.

• A national workshop to update and advance the national plan in Lima, Peru also took place in August, and results of the meeting are forthcoming. Another workshop is scheduled for Uruguay in October. Both updated national plans will incorporate the new WHO Action Plan.
The following slides show the regional data that VISION 2020 Latin America collects on an annual basis from national committees of prevention of blindness/VISION 2020, societies of ophthalmology, NGOs, industry, and other stakeholders.

The data shown here are currently mandated by the new GAP, among additional indicators, to be collected at the global level.
Regional Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR), 2005 - 2012
Regional Number of Cataract Surgeries per Ophthalmologist (Theoretical), 2005 - 2012
Number of Cataract Surgeries per Ophthalmologist per Country, 2012

Number of Cataract Surgeries Per Ophthalmologist (Theoretical)
Number of Ophthalmologists per Country, 2005 - 2012
Number of Cataract Surgeries per Ophthalmologists per Country, 2005 - 2012
CSR per Country, 2005 - 2012
CSR per Country, 2005 vs 2012

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Paraguay
Peru
Venezuela
Uruguay
Lessons Learned from Latin American Data Collection and Advocacy Activities

• Consistent and continuous engagement of regional governments is imperative to move forward the GAP and related advocacy agenda.

• Regarding national planning activities, the outstanding question is to what extent these plans have been implemented and resulted in any impact on their national health systems.

• Based on recent experience in Argentina, however, we need to review whether the current system for collecting cataract data is adequate.
  • This concern stems from under-reporting of surgeries mainly from ophthalmologists in private practice who are reluctant to disclose numbers.

• While cataract surgical coverage data are available from the existing RAAB design, as are outcomes data, the latter data are compromised by the fact that outcomes are typically measured some years after surgery and other factors may be responsible for the actual visual acuity.
The IAPB Latin America is submitting a research proposal request to establish the mechanism, a regional database, to collect the new GAP Indicators with the collaboration of ministries of health (MOHs), VISION 2020 Committees national professional societies and regulatory bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and industry representatives in the pilot region of Latin America in 3 countries: Chile, Peru, and Honduras.

The secondary objectives of this project are to evaluate the feasibility of data collection and the reliability of the indicators and adequacy of the metrics used to define the indicators.

The final project evaluation will conclude with the validation of a research protocol to implement this project and collect data on indicators in other regions of the world.

We anticipate this research protocol to be a very important and valuable tool for the implementation of indicators worldwide.