Report Facilitators Meeting

Joint Meeting of the PAHO/WHO/Ministry of Health on Integrated Management for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care

9-11 December 2008

Quito, Ecuador
1. Background

Ecuador is a middle income country with a population of fourteen million. Life expectancy is more than 70 years. There is a 24/1,000 probability of dying under the age of five. Physicians and nursing/midwifery density was respectively 15/10,000 and 18/10,000 population in 2,000. About 80% of the deliveries are attended by skilled personnel. Twenty four provinces are present in the country. The hospital system is based on provincial hospitals (in the capital) and cantonal hospitals. Each cantonal hospital is the referral hospital of an identified area, so called "Area de la Salud". In these areas Basic Health Centres (Centro de la Salud) are responsible of the primary health care.

Collaboration project were established on neonatal, obstetric and surgical emergencies between the University of Parma-Italy, and the University of Loja-Ecuador, supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the WHO Integrated Management for Essential and Emergency Surgical Care (IMEESC) toolkit was introduced at the University of Loja, which resulted in interest for a Spanish translation. Situation analysis of most health facilities of the Loja province was done using the WHO Situational analysis tool to assess Emergency and Essential Surgical Care:


Training courses using translated sections of the WHO IMEESC tool kit were organized 2008 for doctors and nurses of the Macarà District Hospital and “Centro de la Salud” of Zapotillo in the Loja province.

Prior to the meeting in Ecuador, the EESC project was discussed with the Ambassador Mr M. Montalvo, The Permanent Mission of Ecuador, Geneva, Switzerland.

2. Objectives

- Introduction of the WHO Integrated Management for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care toolkit and research tools to assess the availability of emergency essential surgical care in Ecuador;
- Plans for coordination of existing collaborative activities of the WHO/OPS, Loja University in Ecuador, Parma University in Italy, WHO Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (GIEESC) in Switzerland and Cooperazione Italiana.
3. Visit to Health Facilities

- Centro de la Salud de Tabacundo, Area de la Salud 13
- Hospital Cantonal Raul Maldonado Mejia, Area de la Salud 12, Cayambe

4. Joint OPS/WHO, MoH, Facilitators Meeting

The meeting participants included key policy makers, key health providers, representatives of the University of Loja and representatives of OPS/WHO country office. The WHO IMEESC toolkit was introduced to participants and its applicability was demonstrated in the day to day practice, training, and guidance on policy decisions at all levels of healthcare aiming to reduce death and disability in trauma, pregnancy related complications and infection (including HIV).

A further meeting was held in the Italian Embassy in Quito. Participants were the Italian Ambassador in Quito, the representatives of the WHO HD, members of the Italian Embassy and of the Cooperazione Italiana, depending from the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

5. Discussions of the Meetings

This mission was undertaken upon the request from the Medical School of University of Loja, MOH Ecuador and OPS to discuss plans on existing collaborative activities of the WHO/OPS, Loja University in Ecuador, Parma University in Italy and WHO GIEESC in WHO/HQ, Switzerland:

- WHO EESC project experience in other 31 countries was shared.
- WHO IMEESC toolkit, which includes guidelines on research, policies, best practices, monitoring and evaluation to improve the quality of care, was introduced.
- Partnerships through the WHO Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (GIEESC) and their support to country activities were discussed.
- PAHO/WHR stated that the WHO EESC project is of much interest to MoH Ecuador and OPS due to the recent interest in the reform of the Health Sector, and this project will therefore reinforce the health provider.
- The WHO Situation analysis tool to assess emergency and essential surgical care could be of benefit to collaborate and coordinate with health systems and services to improve the quality of care.
- Work is needed to link the EESC project into the Primary Health Care (PHC) and present as a new health care model since this project fits in strengthening
capacities through PHC and also all levels of care including the involvement of the university.

- Opportunity to present in the upcoming National Congress of the Health Sector Reform the baseline data on situation analysis of access to emergency and essential surgical care at remote rural health care facilities and the experience of province of Loja in implementing the adapted WHO IMEESC toolkit in teaching and training curriculum to improve the quality of EESC.
- Most of the WHO IMEESC toolkit has been translated in Spanish by the Faculty of the Medical School of University of Loja.
- Translated materials need to be shared by colleagues from surgery, anaesthesia and obstetric departments of other universities to have a consensus prior to dissemination (publication and developing CDs) by the MOH Ecuador and OPS.
- Opportunity is to be sought for sharing of experience of the EESC project in Medical School of University of Loja with Medical University in north of Peru (both universities have close collaboration with Cooperazione Italiana from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Bi-national project between Peru and Ecuador).

6. Recommendations and Action Plan

This meeting resulted in the following recommendations and action plan:

- Prepare project with Loja University on improving the quality of EESC using the WHO monitoring and evaluation tool from the WHO IMEESC toolkit and include other universities of Ecuador, representing the East, West, North and Southern provinces;
- Workshop on Integrated Management for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care is to be held on 22 January 2009 in collaboration with WHO/OPS;
- Spanish translations of the WHO IMEESC toolkit will be discussed and finalized with other health providers representing universities from various regions of Ecuador during the workshop on 22 January 2009.
- MoH Ecuador in collaboration with OPS and Loja University will disseminate the WHO Situation analysis tool to assess emergency and essential surgical care and data will be entered in the WHO global database in Geneva for analysis and sharing with the OPS Ecuador. This could be developed for a paper publication.
- Presentation of the situation analysis of emergency and essential surgical care in Ecuador during the National Health for life Congress with the theme
'Health sector transformation in 2009' is to be held in April 2009 in Loja

- Prepare report on the facilitators meeting on EESC for dissemination to WHO/OPS and MOH Ecuador, Permanent Mission of Ecuador at UN in Geneva, Italian Embassy in Quito, Ecuador and WHO website

- Establish close collaboration and coordination by OPS/WHO and The MoH Ecuador and WHO/ Geneva on progress of EESC project with Cooperazione Italiana from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Meeting Participants

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