

**Panel Session**

**E3: Containing Antimicrobial Resistance in South America: An Integrated Approach**

**Abstract Title**

Partnership to Contain Antimicrobial Resistance in Paraguay

**Keywords**

infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, Paraguay, partnerships

**Learning Objectives**

Participants will learn how a partnership approach, involving multiple technical partners, both international and national, to strengthen national capacities and address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was implemented in Paraguay.

**Partnership Model**

Partnerships were developed among USAID-funded international organizations with diverse technical expertise and Paraguayan stakeholders under the South American Infectious Disease Initiative (SAIDI) to develop a local strategy to contain AMR, based on a comprehensive analysis of factors contributing to its emergence and spread.

**Background**

Antimicrobial resistance is a growing health concern in Paraguay, where the standard existing entities, such as the drug regulatory agency, laboratories, health services, professional associations, pharmaceutical industry and universities, have been addressing the problem using conventional and independent activities, without much involvement from individuals and organizations beyond these entities.

**Design/Methods**

Under SAIDI, international and key national partners brought together the mentioned entities towards a coordinated effort to develop a containment strategy based on the local context and concentrated on specific objectives. This larger partnership defined a work plan to address priority issues such as drug quality, pharmaceutical management, rational use of antimicrobials, antimicrobial use for prevalent infections in children under five and risk communication, fostering communication among partners to create opportunities for synergy and increased efficiency and effectiveness.

**Results/Outcomes**

A national AMR working group was formed, including stakeholders previously excluded in the process. Information was gathered on factors shaping the behavior of prescribers, behaviors and consumers. Communication among those working on AMR separately has improved. Several entities have been strengthened through technical assistance provided by international partners in their capacity to regulate the drug market, ensure drug quality, inform the public on drugs, provide health services, and educate health professionals on the rational use of antimicrobials.

**Impact of Partnership**

The value added of the SAIDI partnership is not only the improved coordination and communication among local and international partners, but also a crucial step in generating and sharing local information on the AMR situation, which has been used as the basis to program new actions to contain antimicrobial resistance.

**Co-Authors**

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**Biography**

Over 8 years of experience in infectious diseases control programs, mainly in tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, with emphasis on antimicrobial resistance surveillance. Her work has included activities in many Latin American and Caribbean countries; additional experience in developing projects with international donors, including the ability to

program, monitors and evaluate programs. Currently Dr. Ade is working as Technical Officer in the Communicable Diseases Unit of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization in Washington, DC.