

Engaging Indigenous Peoples in Disaster Risk Reduction

Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance
Annual Cross Border Public Health Preparedness Workshop
Indigenous Health Working Group
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John C. Scott (jcsco^t@cp^sc.com)
on behalf of
Pan American Health Organization/WHO

Background

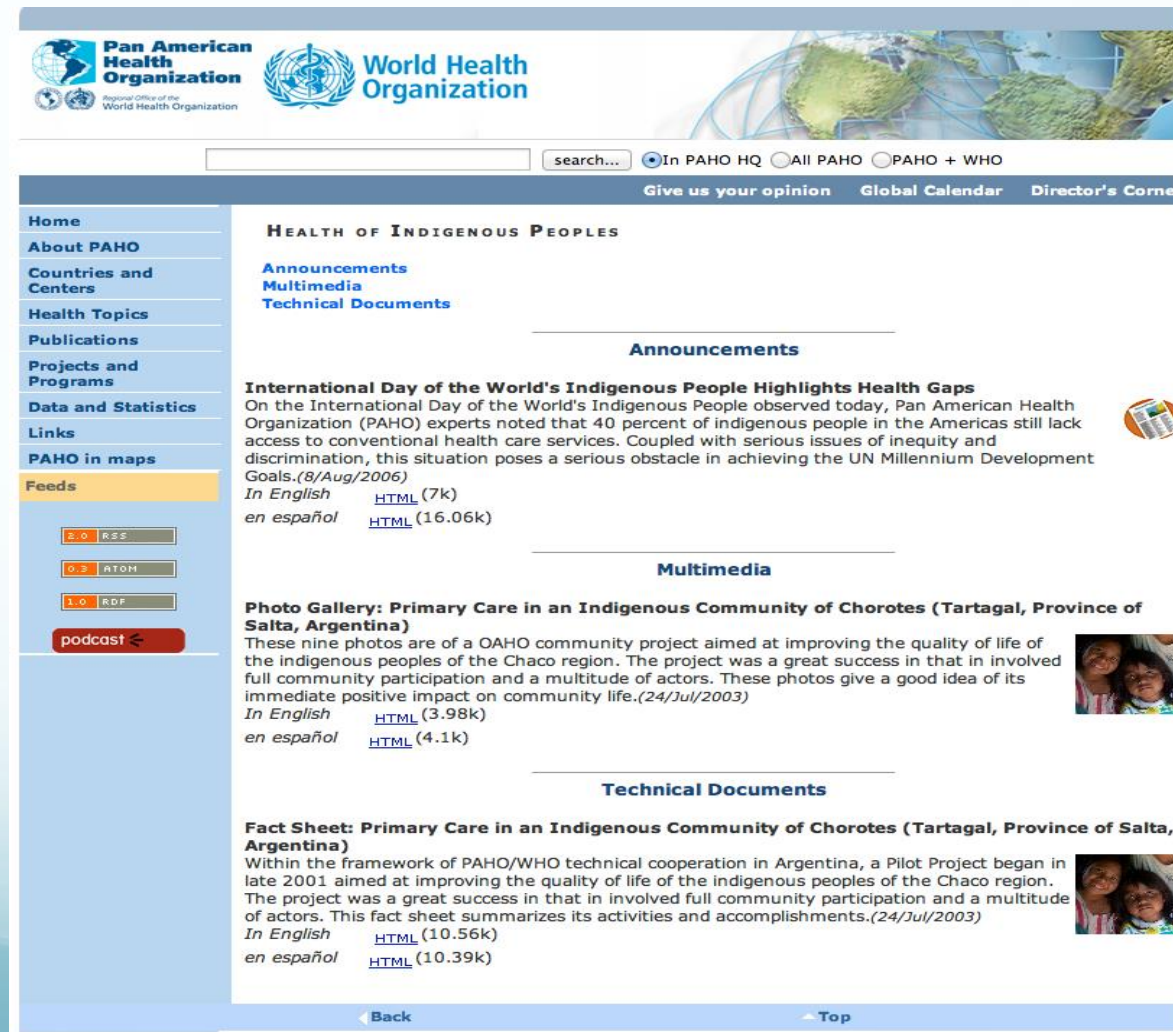
- PAHO is the world's oldest international public health organization (1902)
- PAHO is part of the UN system and the health arm of the Inter-American system
- Serves as the regional office for the Americas of the World Health Organization
- Emergency Preparedness Program created in 1976

Current Situation in the Americas

- LAC extremely vulnerable to wide variety of hazards, constraining development efforts
- Increased vulnerability of urban populations; rural populations still at risk
- LAC often considered middle-income region, but many live in extreme poverty
- Region suffers from lack of trained human resources
- Conflict and insecurity exists in parts of the Region
- Many actors working in health emergencies

Health of Indigenous Peoples

PAHO Information Resources



The screenshot displays the PAHO website interface. At the top, there are logos for the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, along with a search bar and navigation links like 'Give us your opinion', 'Global Calendar', and 'Director's Corner'. A left sidebar contains a menu with categories such as 'Home', 'About PAHO', 'Countries and Centers', 'Health Topics', 'Publications', 'Projects and Programs', 'Data and Statistics', 'Links', 'PAHO in maps', and 'Feeds'. The main content area is titled 'HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' and features sub-sections for 'Announcements', 'Multimedia', and 'Technical Documents'. The 'Announcements' section highlights the 'International Day of the World's Indigenous People Highlights Health Gaps', providing a summary of the issue and links to related content in English and Spanish. The 'Multimedia' section features a 'Photo Gallery: Primary Care in an Indigenous Community of Chorotes (Tartagal, Province of Salta, Argentina)', including a description of the project and a small photo of children. The 'Technical Documents' section includes a 'Fact Sheet: Primary Care in an Indigenous Community of Chorotes (Tartagal, Province of Salta, Argentina)', with a detailed description and a photo of children. At the bottom, there are 'Back' and 'Top' navigation buttons.

Pan American Health Organization
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HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Announcements
Multimedia
Technical Documents

Announcements

International Day of the World's Indigenous People Highlights Health Gaps
On the International Day of the World's Indigenous People observed today, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) experts noted that 40 percent of indigenous people in the Americas still lack access to conventional health care services. Coupled with serious issues of inequity and discrimination, this situation poses a serious obstacle in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. (8/Aug/2006)
In English [HTML](#) (7k)
en español [HTML](#) (16.06k)

Multimedia

Photo Gallery: Primary Care in an Indigenous Community of Chorotes (Tartagal, Province of Salta, Argentina)
These nine photos are of a PAHO community project aimed at improving the quality of life of the indigenous peoples of the Chaco region. The project was a great success in that it involved full community participation and a multitude of actors. These photos give a good idea of its immediate positive impact on community life. (24/Jul/2003)
In English [HTML](#) (3.98k)
en español [HTML](#) (4.1k)

Technical Documents

Fact Sheet: Primary Care in an Indigenous Community of Chorotes (Tartagal, Province of Salta, Argentina)
Within the framework of PAHO/WHO technical cooperation in Argentina, a Pilot Project began in late 2001 aimed at improving the quality of life of the indigenous peoples of the Chaco region. The project was a great success in that it involved full community participation and a multitude of actors. This fact sheet summarizes its activities and accomplishments. (24/Jul/2003)
In English [HTML](#) (10.56k)
en español [HTML](#) (10.39k)

Back Top

Engaging Indigenous Peoples in Disaster Risk Reduction

- PAHO is beginning a process of collaboration with indigenous communities throughout the Americas aimed at improving disaster risk reduction/management.
- An early activity will be establishing a framework for the discussion that will take place over the next several months.
- At this early stage of the initiative we want to make sure we are asking the right questions and asking them in such a way that all who may participate in the discussion understand their meaning.

Question 1

- Are indigenous communities vulnerable to natural hazards or events of public health consequence in ways that are unique to them and different from other racial and ethnic minorities or vulnerable individuals in the majority community?
- If so, in what ways?

Question 2

- Is linguistically and culturally appropriate information about disaster risk reduction/management adequately available?
 - Is the existing disaster risk reduction terminology inclusive of or adapted to the views of indigenous peoples?
 - How can existing disaster risk reduction/management materials (including “best practices”) be adapted to take into account the variety of cultural perspectives?

Question 3

- Who is working in the field(s) of disaster risk reduction and management within indigenous communities or on behalf of indigenous communities?
 - Within community and national governing bodies and agencies as well as community organizations and international institutions

Question 4

- What are the protocols in use, or what should the protocols be, for engaging non-indigenous individuals and organizations in relief efforts in indigenous/tribal communities after disasters and events of public health consequence?

Question 5

- What are (or should be) the most important recommendations that could be aimed at encouraging national/community authorities to create, legislation, services and other initiatives to improve disaster risk reduction and management?

Question 6

- What are some of examples of indigenous community success stories dealing with disaster risk reduction and management
 - i.e., legislation/codes, best practices?