Experience of the National Consultative Immunization Council (NCIC) of Honduras

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1979 — The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) was created in Honduras, establishing coordination with medical associations (vaccination activities, monitoring, support in commissions, etc.).

1999 — Creation of NCIC by ministerial agreement and approval of internal regulations.
Whereas Health is a social good and a pressing human right and it is the duty of everyone to participate in its promotion, protection, and recovery.

Whereas It falls within the purview of the Ministry of Health to formulate, coordinate, implement, and evaluate policies related to the protection, promotion, prevention, and restoration of the health of the populace.

Whereas Pursuant to Article 7 of the Health Code, the Ministry of Health may create Consultative Councils to meet specific needs.

Whereas The country is committed to achieving annual vaccination coverage of over 95% for children under 5 years of age, with an emphasis on children under 2 years, and to meet by the year 2000 the goals of consolidating the eradication of poliomyelitis and measles and controlling neonatal tetanus and the other vaccine-preventable diseases (whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, rubeola, mumps, hepatitis B and invasive diseases produced by *Haemophilus influenzae* Type B).

THEREFORE By the powers vested in it and pursuant to Articles 36, No. 8, of the Public Administration Laws 3, 4, and 7 of the Health Code [sic] [. . .].
NCI C Objective

Consultative body to support and issue recommendations to the EPI on:

- Immunization policies (standards, introduction of new vaccines, etc.);
- Achieving the control, elimination, and eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases;
- Training and updating of human resources on vaccine-preventable diseases;
- Research topics, epidemiological surveillance, and other related matters.
Structure

✓ Comprised of seven members: President, Secretary, and 5 others.

✓ Profile: Pediatric, infectious disease, neurology, and public health specialists with experience in the public, social security, private, and education sectors.

✓ Named to two-year terms and eligible for reelection to one additional term.

✓ Ministry in charge of the EPI.
Regulations (1)

✓ Initial selection of members by the Ministry of Health.
✓ Selection of new NCIC members, as needed
✓ Resignations accepted with justification
Regulations (2)

- Voluntary participation. Members are not paid.

- At meetings, members must abstain from voting if they have a private interest in the matter in question

- Temporary stepping-down in case of conflicts of interest regarding a particular task
EPI plan of action (needs)

Identifying and prioritizing pertinent subjects

NCIC annual work plan

Using PAHO/WHO, CDC, and ACIP recommendations as a reference

Meetings: regular and special, with EPI and PAHO/WHO support

Generation of documents: minutes of meetings, notes for authorities, position statements on special subjects and cases, and proposals for initiatives

Acta de reunión del Consejo Consultivo Nacional de Inmunizaciones
No. 02/2001

- El 13 de Noviembre de 2001 se inició la reunión a las 11:30 A.M. en el Centro Nacional de Biológicas, previa comprobación del quorum, con la participación de los siguientes miembros:
  Dr. Renato Valenzuela, Presidente
  Dr. Carlos Godoy Artega, Vocal
  Dr. Francisco Cleaves, Vocal
  Dr. Fernando Tomé Abarca, Vocal
  Dr. Francisco Rodríguez, Vocal
  Dra. Maribel Rivera, Vocal
  Dra. Idia B. Molina, Secretaria
  Lic. Regina Durón, Asesora Nacional del PAI
  Dra. Ida Berenice Molina, Secretaria
  El Dr. Emilio Zelaya y la Dra. Maribel Rivera se excusaron.

- Agenda de la reunión
  1. Lectura del acta anterior
  2. Revisión de recomendaciones de la XV Reunión del PAI para Centroamérica, México y Caribe Latino.
  3. Discusión de lineamientos técnicos ante desahastecimiento de vacunas
  4. Varios

- Desarrollo de la Agenda:
  Punto 1.
  Se brindó lectura al acta anterior, la cual se aprobó sin enmiendas.

  Punto 2.
  La Lic. Regina Durón informó que durante el período del 12 al 14 de Agosto se realizó en Puerto Príncipe, Haití, la XV Reunión del PAI para Centroamérica, México y Caribe Latino, donde se presentó la situación del PAI en la Subregión y se brindaron recomendaciones para la erradicación del sarampión, control de la Rubeola y Síndrome de Rubeola Congénita, consolidación de la erradicación de la poliomielitis, eliminación del Tétanos Neonatal y de la coordinación interpaís para el logro de las metas establecidas. Destacó los avances del país y el compromiso para mantener los logros y superar las limitantes.
  El presidente del CCNI informó que en fecha reciente participó en Reunión de enfermedades emergentes y reemergentes, realizada en Guatemala, donde se destacó la excelente investigación epidemiológica realizada por...
NCIC functions

✓ Make recommendations to the Ministry of Health, based on PAHO, WHO, CDC, and ACIP technical references, technical documents, and national finances.

✓ Decisions based on scientific and technical evidence and not on political considerations.

✓ No ties to private organizations, pharmaceutical and insurance companies, or other interest groups (professional associations, etc.).
Main achievements

✓ Participation in national certification commissions on poliomyelitis; documentation of the elimination of rubella and congenital rubella syndromes (RS/CRS)
✓ Analysis for decision-making on the introduction of pentavalent, influenza, rotavirus, and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines, and vaccines for special groups
✓ Participation in social communication process
✓ Technical presentations to ministerial authorities in special situations
✓ Support for EPI human-resources training programs
Constraints

✓ Lack of a continuing-education program on immunization- and vaccine-related topics for NCIC members.

✓ Limited sharing of experiences with other Committees in the Region.
Conclusions

✓ The recommendations of the Honduras NCIC have been key to evidence-based decision-making and the introduction of new vaccines such as pentavalent (DPT-Hib-Hep B), influenza, rotavirus, and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines.

✓ In the face of new challenges, the NCIC’s role could be improved by modifying the legal framework and regulations and improving members’ knowledge.
Challenges

✓ Increasing the number of NCIC members, including representatives of the Gynecology and Obstetrics Association and the Honduran Allergy and Immunology, Infectious Disease, and Internal Medicine societies.

✓ Offering a continuing-education program for NCIC members with PAHO/WHO support.
Members of the Honduras NCIC

- Dr. Francisco Cleaves, Pediatric Neurologist
- Dr. Fernando Tomé Abarca, Pediatrics
- Dr. Carlos Godoy Arteaga, Pediatrics and Public Health
- Dr. Renato Valenzuela, Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Marco Molinero, Pediatrics and Neurology
- EPI, Ministry
Vaccination coverage for children <1 year old*, Honduras, 2007-2011**

*1 year for the MMR vaccine
**Coverage to April

Source: EPI/Ministry of Health evaluation reports
THANK YOU

Roatán, Islas de la Bahía, Honduras, Caribbean Sea