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# A Regional Approach to Standardize Neonatal Deaths Surveillance in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

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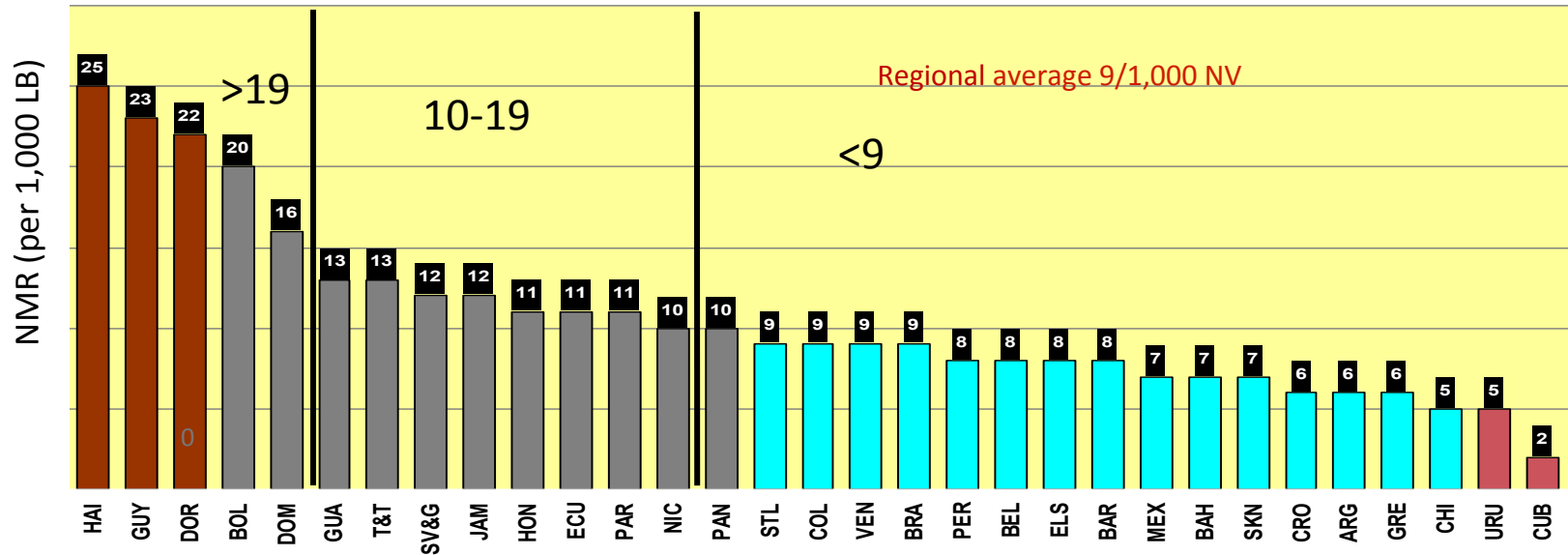
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Maternal and Child Survival Program / PATH



# Outline

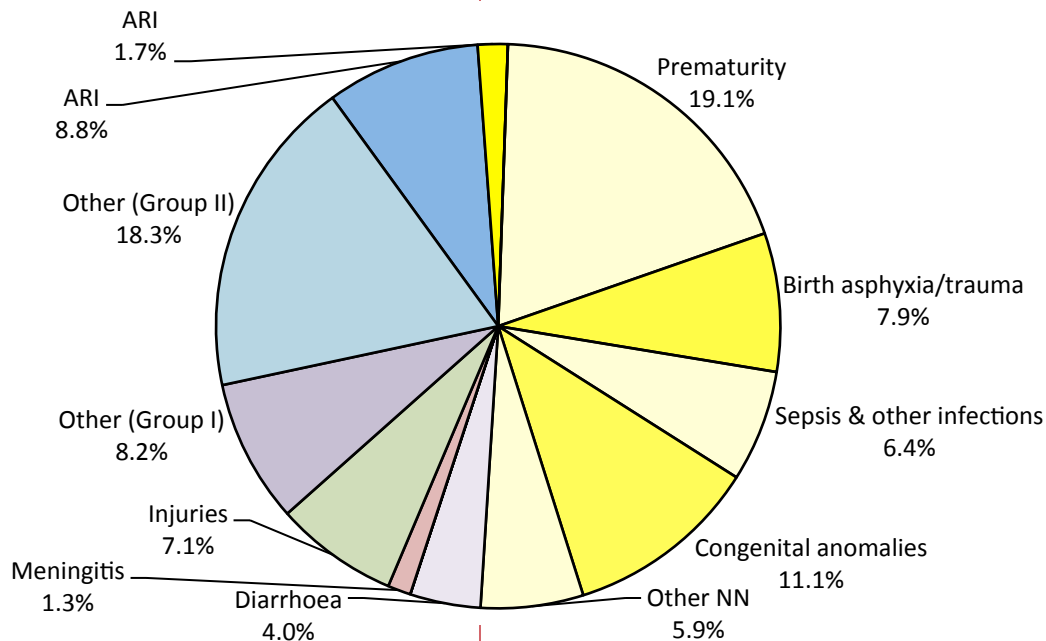
- Burden of newborn deaths in LAC
- Efforts of the LAC Neonatal Alliance
- Regional Approach for Surveillance of Newborn Deaths in LAC - Status

# Variation in Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) in LAC



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank 2015

# Main Causes of Under-5 Mortality in LAC 2013



**Neonatal  
causes  
52% of U-5  
deaths**

# alianza neonatal alliance



Aplicando la Ciencia para Fortalecer  
y Mejorar los Sistemas de Salud



# Mission of the Alliance

- To promote newborn health in LAC within the continuum of reproductive, maternal, and child health, through inter-agency efforts
- To promote evidence-based policies and programs with a specific focus in the most vulnerable populations

# Achievements to Date

- Strategy and Action Plan for Newborn Health in LAC - Resolution CD48.R4 of PAHO's Directing Council (2008)
- Newborn health indicators through a consultative expert process
- Technical assistance to countries to strengthen national strategies in newborn health through alliances led by MOHs
- Developing a regional approach to neonatal deaths surveillance in collaboration with the LAC Regional Safe Motherhood Task Force



# Background for a LAC Regional Approach to Surveillance of Neonatal Deaths

- 2005-2015: The Alliance assisted with the formation of national-level alliances and worked to scale up interventions to address the three major causes of neonatal death in LAC – Intrapartum deaths, sepsis, and complications of prematurity and LBW
- It became clear that to truly address these issues, it is critical to have high quality data - from vital and clinical records, autopsies, etc. Once data is aggregated and analyzed, main and contributing causes of death need to be identified then linked to an action plan to improve quality of care
- Countries in LAC vary from not recording neonatal death statistics, to countries which evaluate a majority of their neonatal mortality



# Activities to Support LAC Neonatal Deaths Surveillance Approach

- Discussion with country experts to explore benefit of regional approach, during annual Alliance meeting in 2014 in Colombia
- Questions on newborn deaths surveillance strategies added to survey on countries' systems for surveillance of maternal deaths in the region; results presented in this panel
- A two-day working group convened by LAC Newborn Alliance Steering Committee in Panama City, Panama, on August 2015 to make recommendations on improving the quality of surveillance in the region; the group included experts from 8 countries (clinicians, academicians, demographers, statisticians, and health managers)

# Panama Meeting Goals

- Provide an overview of the current status of neonatal death surveillance in various countries in the region
- Generate a regional discussion on the importance of strengthening surveillance system
- Determine the value added, feasibility, and functionality of a standardized regional approach led by a working group

# Panama Meeting Recommendations

- Develop or adapt a package of tools to use in the analysis of neonatal mortality data and creation of a quality improvement plan, able to incorporate both computer and paper platforms
- Improve the quality of surveillance systems, through a standardized approach to the provision of technical assistance
- Concentrate efforts on the most vulnerable populations to address important regional inequalities

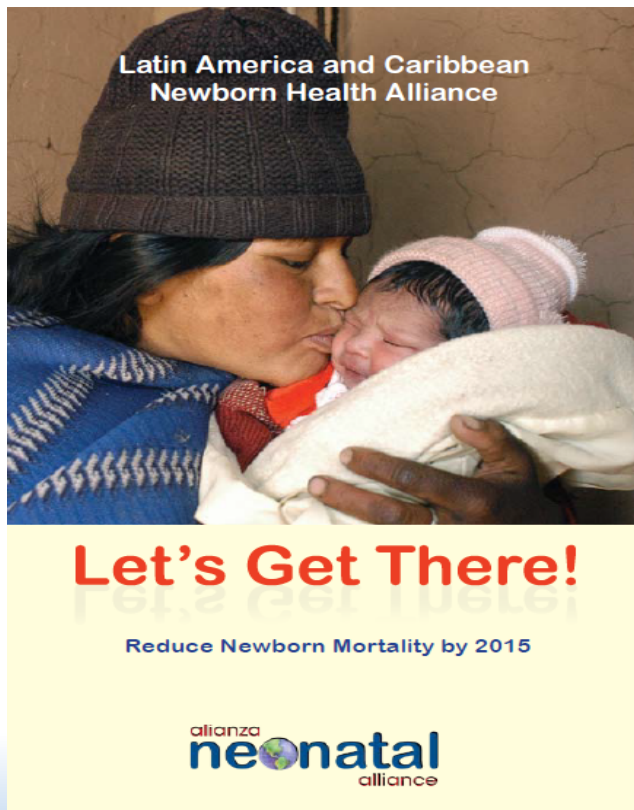
# Next Steps

- Include related activities and budget during LAC Neonatal Alliance work planning in November 2015 in Panama
- Establish collaboration with groups working on definitional issues and indicators (e.g. STC/Saving Newborn Lives, Every Newborn Action Plan Metrics Working Group, ICD Classification Working Group, and others); keep the steering committee and Working Group current on related global efforts
- Develop a strategic vision regarding enhanced surveillance of neonatal deaths
- Seek funding to pilot new technologies/methods of neonatal deaths surveillance in a multi-country trial

## Current Status

- Reviewing available information on LAC maternal and newborn deaths surveillance systems (surveys from the Alliance/Safe Motherhood TWG efforts, WHO/PAHO, and others)
- Small committee formed among Panama expert participants
- Analyzed GTR + Alliance survey results; dissemination planned for LAC Neonatal Alliance meeting in November
- Virtual community of practice proposed to URC/ASSIST, to be added to other existing ones on newborn health ([www.maternoinfantil.org](http://www.maternoinfantil.org)) to establish a system to share knowledge and perspectives on current status of neonatal deaths surveillance

# Many Thanks



For more information, please visit  
**[www.mcspprogram.org](http://www.mcspprogram.org)**

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