

ECUADOR - Typhoid Epidemic

Data
Date: January 1977 (FY 77)
Location: City of Quito
No. Affected: 300
No. Dead: None

The Disaster
An outbreak of typhoid in the city of Quito in January 1977 was originally believed to be city-wide, and all schools and universities were closed. However, local health officials were able to determine that the major portion of those affected lived in a northwest suburb and that the outbreak was due to sewer seepage into the local water system. After this was determined, immediate steps were taken to correct the problem. In addition, an immunization program for the suburban population and for the entire city's schoolchildren was initiated.

Action Taken by the Government of Ecuador (GOE)
The Ministry of Health, through its sub-centers, began an immunization program with the vaccine on hand and appealed to the US and potential international donors for additional vaccine and supplies. The estimated value of the GOE's assistance in personnel and supplies was $200,000.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)
After receiving a request for assistance from the Minister of Health, the U.S. Ambassador exercised his disaster authority on January 6, 1977. A list of needed vaccine and supplies was transmitted to the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in Washington, and OFDA, after obtaining them from Department of Defense stocks, and was able to have them in Quito in two days. The cost of vaccine and supplies was..........................$9,365

TOTAL $9,365
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Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies
None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

Pan American Health Organization - sent an epidemiologist;
made available 24,000 doses of vaccine from stocks in Peru,
valued at $120,000

TOTAL $120,000

* Please note: the figure for total international assistance is an approximation. In many cases, the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.