



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Outbreak of *Plasmodium vivax* Malaria in San Juan del Oro, Peru

According to the Ministry of Health of Peru, since June 2003 there has been an increase in the number of malaria cases produced by *Plasmodium vivax* in the District of San Juan del Oro (Province of Sandia, Puno), which has been reported by the health authorities as an outbreak. Said outbreak began on 20 June 2003 and has continued to the present time, although there has been a decline in the number of cases over the past few weeks. Up to 23 August, a total of 216 confirmed cases of *P. vivax* malaria were reported. The outbreak has taken place in a rural setting, mainly affecting male agricultural workers between the ages of 15 and 44. Six (6) localities in the District have been involved: Azaya, Misky Mayo, Pampa Grande, Pauj Playa, San Ignacio-Curva Alegre, Uramba and Victoria. La Pampa Grande is the most affected of these, with an attack rate of 511 per 1000 inhabitants.

The active search initiated to locate cases with the aim of treating them, as well as intense surveillance and vector control were the measures implemented. Despite the downward trend in the number of cases, certain difficulties have been identified in the area of control, such as the scarcity of antimalarial treatments and incomplete coverage with regard to vector elimination. In addition, all the affected localities are located near the border with Bolivia (Cocos and San Fermín), with a significant number of people moving back and forth—thus creating some difficulties for surveillance and control measures.

Source: Ministry of Health, Peru.