

# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

## National Center for Environmental Health

CDC Technical Site Visit in La Oroya  
March 13– 22, 2004

Brian Hubbard, Oscar Tarragó, Gary Noonan,  
John Sarisky, Pamela Meyer, Sharunda Buchanan



# CDC – USAID Interagency Agreement

- Provide technical assistance for environmental health activities
- \$100,000
- DIGESA is the counterpart agency for environmental health activities

# CDC – USAID Interagency Agreement

## Objective:

- Address health threats that exist in La Oroya

# CDC Technical Team

- **Dr. Sharunda Buchanan**, Chief of Environmental Health Services Branch, National Center for Environmental Health (CNSA) – Project Leader
  - Experience in Lead Monitoring Programs

- **Dr. Oscar Tarragó**, Division Health Education and Promotion, ATSDR
  - Coordinates communication of health risks and has worked in childhood lead poisoning projects

# CDC Technical Team

- **Dr. Pamela Meyer**, Lead Scientist, Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch,

- Coordinates scientific teams to improve the epidemiological surveillance of lead poisoning

- **Sr. Gary Noonan**, Assistant Director for Chemical Response and Terrorism and Director of Global Health Activities for the Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects

- Has worked in Lima/Callao and Puerto Nuevo on Lead studies

# CDC Technical Team

- **Sr. John Sarisky**, Senior Environmental Health Official, Technical Assistance Team Leader, Environmental Health Services Branch
  - Has EPA certification as an inspector and evaluator for environmental lead contamination

- **Sr. Brian Hubbard**, Environmental Health Scientist, Environmental Health Services Branch
  - Has worked in Perú providing technical assistance to NGOs, and regional and local governments to implement community based environmental health assessments

# Government Agencies Visited

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM)
- The General Directorate of Environmental Health (DIGESA)

# DOE RUN Perú Smelting Facility



- Dr. Juan Carlos Huyhua  
Vice President of Management and Operations
- José A. Mogrovejo  
Vice President of Corporate Environmental Issues



# Smelting Facility Visit



# Regional Government



- Engineer Manuel Duarte – Regional President
- Dr. Luis Huamaní – Regional Health Director of Junín

# Local Government and Civic Organizations

- Mayor Clemente Quincho
  - Social License
- Secretary Carlos Rojas – Regional Environmental Council (CAR)
- Movement for the Health of La Oroya (MOSAO)

# Appreciation



# Three Most Important Themes

## Reduction of Emissions

Historical  
Contamination

Public Health and  
Hygiene  
Education



# Public Health and Hygiene Education

- A very important topic for reducing exposure to the contaminants
- Efforts should reduce exposure to other diseases as well
- However, given current levels, it should not be the first priority



# Reduction of Emissions



# Historical Contamination





# Preliminary Observations and Recommendations

Historical contamination is a very important issue that should be aggressively addressed, at the same time as reduction in air emissions.

# Preliminary Observations and Recommendations

The Peruvian Government needs to bring together all the different parties involved to take immediate and strong action in the search for a solution for historical contamination.

CDC can provide support materials, information, and contacts on environmental remediation

# Preliminary Observations and Recommendations

A valuable opportunity exists to improve the coordination and communication between all involved parties (including the community), in order to achieve a more representative and complete community participation.

# Preliminary Observations and Recommendations

One needs to define community in a more precise way and implement a process of inclusion and participation to encourage the credibility and trust between institutions and the community

# Preliminary Observations and Recommendations

The agreement between MINSA and Doe Run Peru is very ambitious and the priorities should be based on existing resources

# Preliminary Observations and Recommendations

There is an emphasis on curative services above preventative measures, which does not solve the exposure problem. However, we recognize there is a great need for medical services in La Oroya

# Preliminary Observations and Recommendations

There exists a need for a well-designed, scientifically-based, and corroborative system to monitor:

- Reduction of air emissions
- Remediation of historical contamination

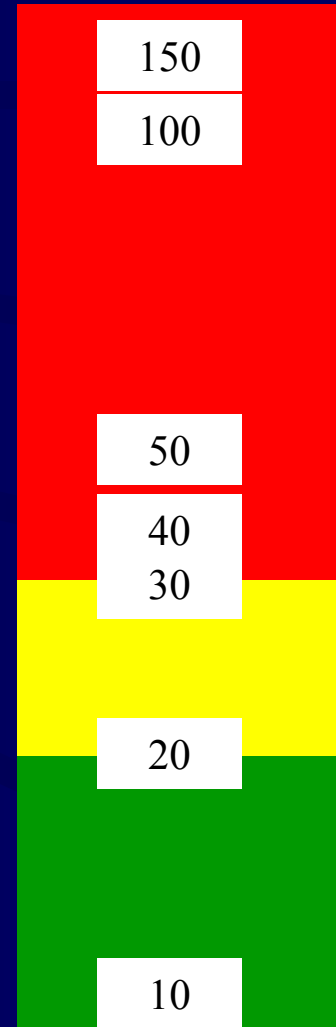
# Preliminary Observations and Recommendations

Although it appears that the principal focus is lead contamination, taking immediate action will reduce exposure to other contaminants such as cadmium, arsenic, sulfur dioxide and suspended particulates, among others.



# Lead Levels Associated with Observable Effects in Children

- Death →
- Encephalopathy →
- Nephropathy →
- Severe Anemia →
- Colic →
- Synthesis of hemoglobin →
- Metabolism Vit. D →
- Speed of conduction in the nerves →
- Neurotoxins →
- IQ →



# Next Steps

- Evaluation of Collected Information
- Preparation of the Final Report
- Sharing Report Findings

# Summary



As soon as the sources of contamination are reduced and controlled (new and historical) there will be less damage to the population, especially the children, the group most vulnerable.

# Thanks for your attention!

