AlertaChirimacha: Shifting Community-Based Vector Surveillance to Social Media During COVID-19

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**Background**

The COVID-19 health emergency has brought new challenges for disease surveillance and control. Particularly in the city of Arequipa-Peru, the mandatory social immobilization and the limitations on public transportation imposed by the national government have greatly affected the entomological surveillance of kissing bugs, the vector of *Trypanosoma cruzi*. As an effort to maintain the surveillance active, we have created “AlertaChirimacha” a new system of communication and report that reduce contact between the community and the vector control staff.

**Methods**

- New number phone to report kissing bugs
- Page and paid advertising to promote the new reporting method
- According to Facebook:
  - First post: 37,576 People that saw it, 66 Comments, 666 Shares, 931 Reactions
  - Second post: 45,753 People that saw it, 24 Comments, 249 Shares, 439 Reactions

**Results**

- 68 reports and 13 inquiries
- 2 new infestation foci uncovered
- 10 houses treated with insecticide
- 5 bed bugs reports
- 66 reports of other insects
- 61 harmless insects

**Future avenues**

- Targeted post for a specific area where an infestation is detected.
- Create “Alerta Chinche de cama”