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**Press Release**

## **Amazon Malaria Initiative Partners Analyzed Alternative Malaria Treatment at Regional Meeting**

***-- Representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname discussed new approaches to treatment of resistant malaria that kills thousands of people in the Amazon Region --***

(Washington, D.C. – April 15, 2010) Management Sciences for Health, a partner of Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI), announced that it convened a regional technical meeting to analyze current patterns of malaria treatment in Amazon region. The event took place in Cartagena, Colombia, April 13-15, 2010, on the eve of World Malaria Day and focused on alternatives to improving malaria treatment in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname, which are AMI Amazon Basin partner countries. For more information, visit the Web site <http://usaidami.org/>

“AMI’s multipronged, evidence-based approach assesses the effectiveness of current drugs, develops new treatment policies, improves drug quality and accessibility,” said Dr. Jaime Chang, USAID. “AMI improves diagnostic accuracy, promotes integrated vector control, and devises social media tactics that serve to educate the people of the Amazon Basin regarding prevention measures and access to effective treatments.”

The meeting reviewed the antimalarial drugs procurement practices and cost-effective alternatives. The participants also reviewed plans to ensure access to treatment in both low and high malaria transmission areas.

The Amazon Malaria Initiative seeks to ensure that programs for malaria control in the Amazon region incorporate best practices to prevent and control this disease, complementing efforts of bilateral programs of USAID missions, and supporting Roll Back Malaria in Latin America. The establishment of partnerships with the countries has helped to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of investments of the countries in malaria prevention and control.

The technical partners of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the initiative are: Pan American Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Pharmacopeia, Management Sciences for Health, Links Media and Research Triangle Institute.

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