



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2010

Press Office: Nicole Schiegg 202-712-1706

Media Contacts: Yegor Kuznetsov (English)

Links Media: 301-987-5495 ext.106

ykuznetsov@linksmedia.net

Anngie Caballero (Spanish)

Links Media: 301-987-5495 ext.108

acaballero@linksmedia.net

PRESS RELEASE

COMMEMORATION OF MALARIA DAY IN THE AMERICAS

***“Counting Malaria Out” highlights the Amazon Malaria Initiative,
Recognizes Malaria Champions***

WASHINGTON, DC — The Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI) has announced its participation in the commemoration of the 2010 Malaria Day in the Americas, which is annually observed on Nov. 6, to further public awareness about this infectious disease in the region.

This year, the regional event – *2010 Malaria in the Americas Forum: Counting Malaria Out – Promoting Best Practices and Collaboration*, will be held at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) headquarters in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, November 4 from 1:30 to 5 p.m., given that the observed date falls on a Saturday. Stakeholders and the general public are invited to attend and requested to RSVP through: malaria@paho.org.

The event, which is co-hosted by PAHO, Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF), the George Washington Center for Global Health (GWU-CGH), and various country partners, will focus on best practices and lessons learned in malaria control programs in the region, including AMI. Along with PAHEF and GWU-CGH, PAHO will also honor the top finalists for the 2010 Malaria Champions of the Americas Award – the people and organizations who contributed most this year to containing this disease that annually afflicts more than half a million people in the region and places the health of millions more at risk.

The 2010 Malaria Champions of the Americas finalists are:

- Brazil: Fundação de Vigilância em Saúde do Amazonas (Foundation for Health Surveillance of the Amazon)
- Colombia: Departamento Administrativo de Salud y Seguridad Social del Chocó (Administrative Department of Health and Social Security of the Chocó: DASALUD-Chocó)
- Suriname: National Malaria Board

The event will feature AMI, a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) initiative with, members of the Amazon Network for the Surveillance of Anti-malarial Drug Resistance – Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname – to prevent and control malaria. AMI support has contributed to decreasing morbidity and mortality at the national level, and in the Amazon Basin. According to PAHO’s interactive malaria statistics data, malaria cases in AMI countries have declined by almost 50 percent and mortality rates by an average of 69 percent.

“AMI has proven that well planned and executed technical assistance programs can make a significant difference in international antimalarial efforts,” said Dr. Jaime Chang, project management specialist from the Health Office of USAID/Peru. “AMI uses cost-effective management and is a great example of international cooperation between governments, communities, research organizations, businesses and technical partners. We are proud to present our accomplishments at such an influential forum.”

AMI partners include PAHO, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP), Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Links Media, and Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

For more information on USAID, please visit www.usaid.gov. For more information on AMI, please visit www.usaidami.org. For more information on PAHO and Malaria Day in the Americas, please visit www.paho.org/malaria

###