



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AMAZON MALARIA INITIATIVE (AMI) AND AMAZON NETWORK FOR THE SURVEILLANCE OF ANTIMALARIAL DRUG RESISTANCE (RAVREDA) CELEBRATE DECADE OF SUCCESS**

***-- The regional initiative reflects on successes and lessons learned, plan future roadmap to control malaria in the Americas--***

**WASHINGTON, DC**—USAID’s Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI) and the Amazon Network for the Surveillance of Antimalarial Drug Resistance (RAVREDA) of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will commemorate 10 years of advances in the regional fight against malaria and will call for a sustainable roadmap to control the disease in Latin America and the Caribbean Region. The event, titled “Celebrating 10 Years of Collaboration, Looking into the Future Together,” will take place on September 15, 2011, at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The event participants will hear about AMI and RAVREDA’s positive impact on malaria control efforts in the Amazon Basin. The initiative’s collaborative and participatory approach has proved appropriate and effective in achieving successes in pharmaceutical management, vector control, diagnosis and treatment, surveillance, and quality of medicines in the Amazon. The initiative has also created an environment favorable for expanded collaboration and greater coordination of investments in malaria control efforts in the Americas.

“AMI and RAVREDA have had a crucial impact on malaria prevention and control efforts in the Amazon Basin,” said Dr. Jaime Chang, Initiative Coordinator, USAID Peru. “The actions of the Initiative have contributed in decreasing morbidity and mortality.”

AMI is a seven country regional program in the Amazon Basin implemented in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname with the support of USAID. RAVREDA is the network organized in 2001 by the governments of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela, with technical support from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).



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The Initiative's accomplishments include:

- Deployment of regional procedures and good practices for pharmaceutical management, vector control, diagnosis and treatment, surveillance, access, quality and use of medicines
- Establishment of regional network with a shared vision and common goals, sharing approaches, protocols, methods, tools, ideas and lessons learned
- Evidence-based malaria treatment policies modification through introduction of highly efficacious artemisinin- based combination therapies (ACTS)
- Decisive contribution to the 52% decrease in malaria cases and 69% decrease in malaria deaths for the entire region

“While we have attained tremendous improvements in malaria control over the last 10 years, the work is far from done,” noted Dr. Chang. “To continue the progress, we must be ready to evolve to respond to an entirely new set of challenges. That means we must share a common long-term vision and work in a coordinated fashion, sharing resources in an efficient and effective way.”

For more information on Amazon Malaria Initiative, visit [www.usaidami.org](http://www.usaidami.org). To register to the 10 year anniversary event, visit [www.usaidami.org/registration](http://www.usaidami.org/registration)

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