



Press Release

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USAID's Amazon Malaria Initiative Joins the Ministerio de Salud del Perú, Colegio Médico del Perú, and the Pan American Health Organization to Recognize Malaria Day in the Americas

Washington, D.C.—The seven partner countries of the USAID-supported Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI) which includes the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will join with the Ministerio de Salud del Perú (MINSA) and the Colegio Médico del Perú to discuss the significant achievements and challenges in reducing malaria morbidity and mortality in the Amazon basin. Attendees will share evidence-based information on addressing malaria, implementation of best practices, lessons learned, and will identify strategies for continuing the fight against malaria in the region.

To recognize **Malaria Day in the Americas**, USAID, MINSA, and the Colegio Médico del Perú have joined efforts to organize two public events that will discuss the current situation of malaria in Peru and the region as a whole:

The Colegio Médico del Perú will host “Malaria in the Americas: Overcoming the Challenges of a Borderless Disease,” on **November 6**. A distinguished group of academics and health professionals will discuss climate change and malaria, lessons learned, and future needs for malaria control. The event will take place at 7:00 PM at Malecón Armendáriz 791 Miraflores in Lima; Tel: (511) 213-1400.

On **November 7**, the Congreso de la República del Perú, USAID, MINSA, and AMI Partner PAHO will host a panel discussion about malaria, borders, and health diplomacy. The event will take place the Convention Center of the Medical Board Association, located at Plaza Bolívar, Av. Abancay s/n - Lima, Peru, telephone: 311-7777. Prominent government representatives, members of the scientific community, and members of the public will discuss malaria control initiatives in the region.

Malaria is a global health issue, and the disease respects neither international borders nor continental distances. Despite the advances made in vector control, disease detection, effective therapies, and communicating the risks of the disease, 41 million people in Latin America are still at risk for contracting the potentially fatal disease.



AMI's mission is to ensure that malaria control programs in the Amazon Basin sub-region substantially incorporate selected best practices. AMI complements the efforts of USAID mission bilateral programs and supports the Roll Back Malaria Partnership in Latin America. AMI has taken a truly multifaceted approach to malaria in the region. Forming partnerships with the countries has helped secure investment by the nations' governments, private sector, and civil society. "USAID, along with a group of selected providers of technical assistance and country partners have forged an initiative that contributes to improve malaria prevention and control responding to specific regional and country needs," says Dr. Jaime Chang of USAID.

USAID's eight partner nations in AMI are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. USAID's technical partners in the initiative are the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Links Media, Management Sciences for Health, PAHO, and the U.S. Pharmacopeia.

USAID's Role in Malaria Control and Prevention

AMI is consistent with the Presidential Malaria Initiative announced by U.S. President George W. Bush in 2005, along with his pledge to increase funding for malaria prevention and control by more than \$1.2 billion through 2010 in 15 of the hardest hit nations in Africa to cut malaria deaths by half.

Led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), PMI is working in partnership with host country governments in Africa, non-governmental organizations, faith-based and community groups, and the private sector to decrease the intolerable burden malaria imposes on African countries.

Besides Africa and Latin America, USAID supports malaria control and prevention programs in Asia through the Mekong Regional Initiative covering Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.