



ECUADOR

ZIKA PROGRAM

UPDATED MARCH 2020

In February 2016, the World Health Organization declared that clusters of Zika-associated microcephaly and other neurological disorders detected in Brazil constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. USAID has been responding to the Zika virus epidemic and its devastating effects in at-risk countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean since June 2016. The overall USAID Zika program is expected to end by June 2020.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By investing in Zika prevention, control and innovation USAID has helped strengthen Ecuador's capacity to respond to the recent epidemic and future disease threats. USAID's focus is to protect individuals, particularly pregnant women, from Zika by:

- Controlling mosquitoes that spread the virus;
- Increasing awareness of how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection;
- Supporting health services for potentially affected women and children; and
- Working with USG counterparts to support disease detection and surveillance.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USAID leveraged community partners and leadership to disseminate key Zika information and battle *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes through the Juntos Ante el Zika project that worked in the coastal border regions of Peru and Ecuador. Implemented by CARE, this project increased community, local and national capacities to respond to the Zika Virus outbreak and other infectious diseases through disaster risk reduction and community centric human rights approaches. Over 1000 volunteers worked on the community-level Zika response in Ecuador.

VECTOR MANAGEMENT

Through the Zika AIRS Project (ZAP), USAID has strengthened national capacity to conduct vector control and surveillance for Zika and future arbovirus outbreaks. ZAP provided the Ministry of Health with entomological equipment and an insectary-in-a box to enable the country to better implement mosquito surveillance and control programs. This work was complemented by a partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) that supported the Ministry of Health in adapting regional guidelines for integrated vector management.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

USAID integrated high quality, evidence-based Zika services and guidelines into Ecuador's existing family planning, antenatal, obstetric and newborn care systems. The Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) project worked with the Ministry of Health at the regional level and 21 facilities to help providers integrate Zika prevention, diagnosis, and care for affected families into routine health services. Between both ASSIST and the Juntos Ante el Zika project implemented by CARE, over 2,800 healthcare providers were trained to provide Zika counseling to women of reproductive age. Service delivery efforts in Ecuador received additional support from guidelines and reference materials developed by the Maternal and Child Survival Program.

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

The Zika Program also included funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through an Interagency Agreement that provided a field epidemiology training program and risk communication training, as well as laboratory equipment for Zika diagnosis, to Ecuador's Ministry of Health.



For more information please contact Christina Chappell (cchappell@usaid.gov) at USAID/Washington.