



# ZIKA PROGRAM

## JAMAICA

*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 Jamaica's capacity to respond to the recent epidemic and future disease threats. USAID's focus has been 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.

### **VECTOR MANAGEMENT**

Through the Zika AIRS Project (ZAP), USAID actively reduced populations of the mosquito that carries Zika by building national and provincial capacity to conduct vector control and surveillance for Zika and future arbovirus outbreaks. ZAP conducted over 380,000 household inspections and established two laboratories to support the study and surveillance of mosquitoes and insecticide resistance in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. This work was complemented by a partnership with the

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) that supported the Ministry of Health and Wellness in adapting regional guidelines for integrated vector management.

#### MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND SERVICE DELIVERY INTERVENTIONS

USAID integrated high quality, evidence-based Zika services and guidelines into Jamaica's existing family health care systems. The Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) project worked with the Ministry of Health and Wellness in 60 facilities to help providers improve care for infants affected by congenital syndrome and integrate quality neurodevelopmental surveillance in well-baby care services. UNICEF strengthened national systems by mapping multi-sectoral care and support resources and referrals for families and children affected by congenital abnormalities. Service delivery efforts in Jamaica received additional support from the procurement and delivery of personal mosquito repellent and condoms to prevent sexual transmission of Zika to pregnant women through the Global Health Supply Chain Program.

#### SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

As new evidence about Zika emerged, USAID worked at the national, regional and local levels to inform people how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection. The Health Communication Capacity Collaborative (HC3) developed a national Zika message guide in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, and Breakthrough ACTION provided short-term technical assistance and training in social and behavior change. Breakthrough ACTION, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and key experts, also conducted exploratory research on how to improve water storage in Jamaica to reduce *Aedes aegypti* breeding sites. The Support for International Family Planning Organizations-II project with Population Services International (SIFPO II-PSI) worked in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) to disseminate a Caribbean regional print and radio campaign aimed at reaching pregnant women and women of reproductive age and their partners with information about Zika and key prevention practices.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USAID leveraged community partners and leadership to disseminate key Zika information and battle *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. Through the Caribbean Zika Project, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) partnered with the Jamaican Red Cross to engage community leaders, schools and families with public information campaigns and clean-up campaigns to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and prevent the spread of Zika.

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